

AS ITS CHANGING

Typical Viewpoint 2025



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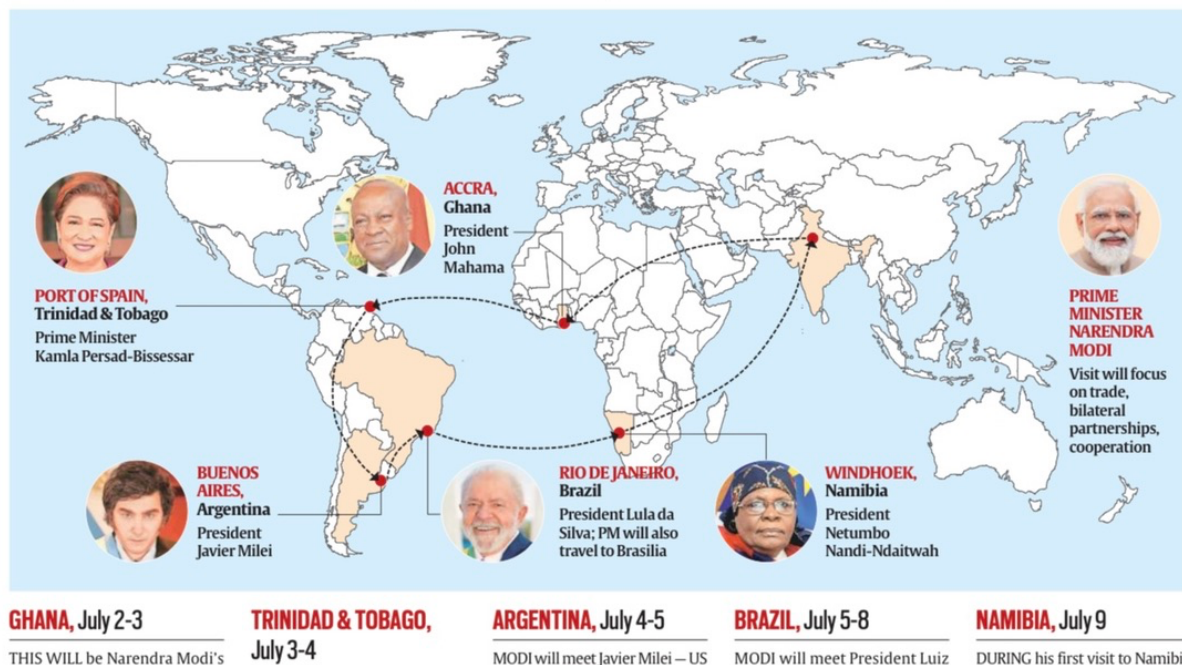
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01.07.2025

India's outreach to the Global South

Why PM Modi's 9-day, 5-nation trip — one of his longest visits overseas — beginning tomorrow matters



03.07.2025

Saturday classes, home lessons: Mizoram road to 'first fully literate state'

Adult Literacy programme @ GoI		
Popular name	ULLAS programme	Implementation 2022-2027
		Ministry of HRD
		non-literate people aged 15 years and above,
Official name	Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram	Centrally sponsored scheme

	or New India Literacy Programme (NILP)	<u>Volunteered by :-</u> ☐ willing people, ☐ organization, ☐ companies etc <u>Implemented through:-</u> ○ Samajik Chetna Kendras ○ Ullas Mobile application considered literate <i>only when they are able to functionally read, write and perform basic operations <u>instead of signing and writing the names, this also includes digital and financial literacy.</u></i>
National Literacy Mission (NLM)	Launched 1988 Ministry of HRD non-literate people aged 15 -35 years Centrally sponsored scheme aimed to reduce gender, social, and regional disparities in literacy rates	

“Neo-literates”	who passed
	a Foundational Literacy
	and Numeracy Test (FNALT) over the past year.

Foundational Literacy	Reading and Writing Grade 3
Numeracy	Numeracy Number sense Spatial understanding Grade 2

Who is an adult nonliterate?

- ☐ A person who is 15 years or above and is unable to perform one or more below mentioned criteria, could be considered an adult non-literate.
- ☐ A person who cannot read aloud at a speed of 30 words per minute.
- ☐ A person who cannot read aloud and understand road signs, posters and newspapers.
- ☐ A person who cannot understand and copy 7 words per minute.
- ☐ A person who cannot take dictation at the speed of 7 words per minute.
- ☐ A person who cannot read and write numbers from 1 to 100.
- ☐ A person who cannot perform simple calculations - addition, subtraction, multiplication and division.

Universal FLN - Objectives



- Making learners competent in doing meaningful reading and writing by the time they enter grade 3.
- Developing the basic understanding and competencies related to numeracy and its related concepts among young learners till grade 2.
- Developing skills among the learners to amalgamate their outside school experiences in their classroom learning to attain foundational literacy and numeracy in a better way.

Curricular Expectations



Foundational Literacy



Reading
For joy



Reading is
comprehension



Writing
reflects child's
experiences



Writing for various purposes

Listening and Speaking
with comprehension

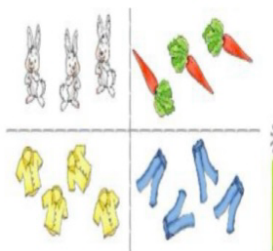
Foundational Numeracy



Competent in Counting



Understanding
about
Numberness



Development of Number sense

Development of
Mathematical
Thinking

Application
Basic
Operations
on Numbers
for problem
solving



- Thanks to “Neo-literates” ,

the **Mizoram** has now become India’s “first fully literate state”

under the Centre’s **ULLAS programme**,

officially called the **Nav Bharat Saksharta Karyakram**

or

the **New India Literacy programme (NILP)**

-

The literacy rate in Mizoram now stands at 98.2% ,	<u>ahead of Goa and Tripura.</u>
---	---

-

According to the Ministry of Education’s 2024 definition,	if it achieves 95% literacy.
a state can be called “ fully literate ”	

Ö

The ULLAS programme ,		
which has a 5 -year timeline	aimed at non-literate people aged 15 years and above,	was first implemented across the country in 2022.

Ö **ULLAS** is one of the many datasets, including the National Literacy Mission (NLM) data and Census, that capture the state of adult literacy in the country.

As per,

National Literacy Mission Literacy b/w 15-35 age group	In 1991, with 90% adult literacy , Kerala had achieved “total literacy”
---	--

----- Total literacy 90% of a state's population aged between 15 and 35 years to be literate.	as per the NLM norms, which required 90% of a state's population aged between 15 and 35 years to be literate. According to the 2011 Census, literacy in ○ Kerala stood at 93.91% ○ while Mizoram's was 91.58%.
--	---

Periodic Labour Force Survey Literacy aged 7 years and above	According to the PLFS's annual report from July 2023 to June 2024, Literacy rate for those aged 7 years and above ○ Mizoram -- 98.2% ○ Kerala -- 95.3%.
--	--

Citing **right to privacy**,

HC quashes MHA's phone tap order

Law does not permit tapping for covert ops, crime probes:

Madras HC

Two landmark judgments of SC

People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India (1997)		KS Puttuswamy v. Union of India (2017)	
Observation	laid down detailed guidelines for lawful phone interception.	Observation	Right to privacy a fundamental right which can be traced to Art 14, 19 and 21
Case Matrix	The Petitioner challenged this section claiming it violated individuals' right to privacy in the wake of a report published by the Central Bureau of Investigations on "Tapping of Politicians Phones"challenging the constitutional validity of Section 5(2) of the Telegraph Act.	Case Matrix	The retired Justice(Karnataka HC) challenged the constitutional validity of the Aadhar scheme
Bench	2 judge bench	Bench	9 Judge bench

What is the Doctrine of Proportionality?

- Ö **In this case** SC applied the **doctrine of proportionality**.
- Ö Whenever challenge is laid to an action of the State on the ground that it violates the **right to privacy**, the action of the State is to be tested on the following parameters:
 - The action must be **sanctioned by law**
 - The proposed **action must be necessary** in a democratic society for a legitimate aim
 - The extent of such **interference** must be **proportionate** to the need for such interference
 - There must be **procedural guarantees** against abuse of such interference.

The law on tapping

The government's powers to **intercept communication** is laid down in – and circumscribed by – three pieces of legislation.

The Indian Post Office Act, 1898	allows for the interception of communication through post ;
The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885	is used for tapping voice calls ;
The Information Technology Act, 2000	governs the interception of WhatsApp messages, emails, etc.

- Given that the right to free speech and the right to privacy are fundamental rights, any encroachment on these rights through surveillance is **only permissible on narrow constitutional grounds**.

> These grounds –

- the interest of the sovereignty, and integrity of India;
- the security of the state;
- friendly relations with foreign states;
- public order; or preventing incitement to the commission of an offence

– are enumerated as “**reasonable restrictions**” under **Article 19(2)** of the Constitution.

- > The court made it clear that the state's justification for surveillance did not meet the legal threshold required to invade an individual's privacy through phone tapping, "In the instant case, the impugned (under challenge) order does not fall either within the ambit of public emergency or the interest of public safety as explained by the Supreme Court in PUCL case," Justice Venkatesh wrote, referring to the 1997 **People's Union for Civil Liberties v. Union of India** verdict, which laid down detailed guidelines for lawful phone interception.
- > The judge noted that the right to privacy, once seen as nebulous and secondary, had evolved into a fundamental right since the 2017 nine-judge bench ruling in **KS Puttuswamy v. Union of India**.
- > "The facts of the case disclose that it was a covert operation or a secretive situation for detection of a crime which would not be apparent to any reasonable person. As the law presently stands, a situation of this nature does not fall within the four corners of Section 5(2) of the Telegraph Act as expounded by the Supreme Court in PUCL which has been approved by the Constitution Bench of the SC in KS Puttuswamy's case", the judge wrote.
- > The court laid out the conditions under which phone tapping can be lawfully carried out: either during a "**public emergency**" or in the "**interest of public safety**". Neither of these conditions, the judge said, were secretive or abstract; they must be apparent to any reasonable person, as clarified by the Supreme Court in PUCL.

Law on phone-tapping, and two HC rulings

Issue	Ö In separate cases, the Delhi and Madras High Courts looked into whether the government can tap phones of suspects before a crime is committed Ö Both the Madras and Delhi High Court cases involved “preventing incitement to the commission of an offence”, which is one of the valid grounds in law for authorising phone tapping.
The High Court rulings	
Both courts separately examined the nature of economic offences to determine if they could be deemed as “ public emergency ” or “ public safety ”.	While the Delhi High Court upheld the interception order, the Madras High Court quashed it.

Case matrix

DELHI HC	MADRAS HC
The accused <u>allegedly seeking to secure a sub-contract for the redevelopment of the ITPO complex into an Integrated Exhibition-Cum-Convention Centre through corrupt means.</u> In 2017, MHA had authorised interception of his phone <u>on the suspicion that he was attempting to bribe a public official.</u>	The accused was <u>allegedly attempting to pay a bribe of Rs 50 lakh to a senior Income Tax officer to help the accused hide undisclosed taxable income.</u> An interception order issued by the MHA in 2011 for interception the phone of the accused in this bribery case.

--	--

Who can give the order for tapping?

Normal case	Urgent case
Tapping of telephones is prohibited without an authorizing order from the Home Secretary @ GoI or Home Secretary @ concerned State	In an urgent case, this power may be delegated to an officer of the Home Department @ GoI or Home Department @ concerned State who is not below the rank of Joint Secretary ○ Subjected to be reviewed by a designated comprised committee ○ Subjected to be renewed after two months ○ Can't remain in operation beyond six months

AI & copyright law

Are generative artificial intelligence models built on stolen creative work? The first two judgments addressing this question in US courts have sided with tech companies. But the matter is far from settled

WHAT COURT SAID IN THE TWO CASES

ANTHROPIC CASE

■ Senior District Judge William Alsup said Anthropic's use of books was "fair use", arguing that the firm used them to create one of the most "transformational" technologies.

■ Judge Alsup also noted that like any reader aspiring to be a writer, Anthropic's LLMs "trained upon works" to "create something different".



META CASE

■ District Judge Vince Chhabria identified the potential harm of AI models, and said companies like Meta should compensate copyright holders.

■ However, as the authors failed to provide "meaningful" evidence on market dilution due to Meta's AI models, Judge Chhabria ruled in favour of the company.

THE CASE AGAINST OPENAI IN INDIA

In 2024, news agency ANI moved a copyright infringement suit against OpenAI, the company behind ChatGPT. Other parties such as Federation of Indian Publishers and the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA), Indian Music Industry (IMI) too have moved applications in the suit, seeking to be made parties.

OpenAI, during the course of hearings, has made the following arguments.

■ That it is not storing data directly, and that there is no general prohibition on the use of data under copyright law, likening such use to "reading a book";

■ That Indian courts do not have jurisdiction on the matter since

OpenAI has no office in the country, the pre-training processes take places outside India, and training data is stored on foreign servers;

■ That OpenAI has refined its models to prevent regurgitation, and following the pre-training phase, OpenAI's models do not have access to the original training data — meaning the responses a user generates on ChatGPT do not directly take from copyright material; and

■ That OpenAI is not a market rival of ANI; it linked the sources of information from which it generated data.

It is yet to be seen how judgments in the US will play out in Indian courts. The next hearing on the matter is scheduled for July 4.

04.07.2025

Tamal, the last imported warship

Built in Kaliningrad, **Russia**, INS Tamal is set to be the **last** Indian warship **purchased from a foreign country**. This is a result of decades of efforts by the Navy at achieving maximum indigenization in shipbuilding

- With the commissioning of INS Tamal at the Yantar Shipyard in Kaliningrad, Russia on Tuesday, the Indian Navy has likely inducted its last foreign-built warship.
 - This is a major milestone for the Navy, which has, over the years, progressively indigenised shipbuilding, increasing bit by bit the indigenous content in warships, as well as designing them in India.
- The **Talwar-class** [lit. 'Sword'] frigates or **Project 1135.6** are a class of **stealth guided missile frigates** designed and built by **Russia** for the Indian Navy.
- ~ The *Talwar*-class guided missile frigates are the improved versions of the **Krivak III** – class [Project 1135] frigates used by the Russian Coast Guard.

Ö

INS Tamal			
is the 8 th Talwar-class frigate –	these are improved versions of the Krivak III-class frigates –	built by Russia	for the Indian Navy
			as a part of project 1135.6.

- Ö It is also the second of four additional follow-on ships of the class that were ordered in 2018.

Foreign purchased			Indigenous	
Russia	1 st → INS Tushil	was commissioned in Kaliningrad in December 2024	Tripur was launched into sea last July and is expected to be commissioned in 2026,	are being built in India by the Goa Shipyard Limited
	Last → INS Tamal	was commissioned in Kaliningrad July 2025	and Tavasya ,	with <u>transfer of technology and design assistance from Russia.</u>

- Ö This is the story of INS Tamal, and the Indian Navy's journey towards indigenisation.

Tamal: A moving sea fortress

INS Tamal is a multi-role frigate			
The Navy describes INS Tamal as a “formidable moving fortress at sea”, and says that it is capable of carrying out blue water operations in all four dimensions of modern naval warfare – air, surface, underwater and electromagnetic.			
AIR	SURFACE	UNDERWATER	EW
carries 2 kinds of anti-aircraft missiles 1) 24 Shtil surface-to-air missiles	anti-ship/land attack capabilities are centred around the BrahMos supersonic cruise	For anti-submarine warfare (ASW) , INS Tamal has a RBU ASW rocket-launcher,	INS Tamal boasts a complement of advanced electronic warfare (EW) suite and advanced Electro-

2) 8 Igla short-range missiles.	missile.	which can fire salvos of upto 12 rockets equipped with depth charges at a time.	Optical/InfraRed systems, which act as ears and eyes of the platform. EW suite includes decoy launching systems which disrupt enemy radar, and jammers.
The warship can <u>also accommodate</u>			
the upgraded Anti-submarine and Airborne Early Warning helicopters,		the Kamov 28 and Kamov 31, which according to the Navy, act as "major force multipliers".	

Towards indigenisation

- > The Navy has said that INS Tamal will be the last imported warship to be inducted into its fleet. This is the culmination of a decades-long push towards indigenization of naval ship-building, and a major milestone in the road to *aatmanirbharta* (self-reliance) in defence.
- > The **Directorate of Indigenisation**

was **established** at the naval headquarters in New Delhi in **2005**.
 This was followed by the creation of
 indigenous development field units at Mumbai and Visakhapatnam in March 2010.

All the 3 Forces of Indian Defence are having
The Directorate of Indigenisation
being headquartered in New Delhi respectively each.

☐ **Private Industry participation → YES / NO**

The Navy's way forward

- > Today, the majority of the Navy's warships are built indigenously, **using more than 75% indigenous components.**
- > Several Indian shipyards, both public-sector and privately held, build ships for the Navy.



INS Tamal in Kaliningrad during trials. Screengrab from video/X/ @indiannavy

FRIGATE: SHORT HISTORY OF A MULTIROLE NAVAL VESSEL

■ During Europe's Age of Sail, the term "frigate" was used to describe fully-rigged ships (with three or more masts) built primarily for speed and manoeuvrability, and intended to be used in scouting, escort, and patrol roles.

While designs varied, these ships were smaller than ships of the line, the mainstays of naval battle in this era, and typically had only one gun deck.

■ The term fell out of use as warships without sails appeared on the scene in the second half of the 19th century. Naval tactics evolved, and frigates were effectively replaced by "cruisers" with different levels of armour and armament.

■ Frigates re-entered the naval lexicon during World War II. The Royal Navy used the term to describe vessels that were larger than corvettes but

smaller than destroyers. They were primarily used as anti-submarine escort vessels: protecting Allied mercantile ships from German u-boat attacks in the Atlantic.

Apart from their names, these modern frigates did not share much in common with models from past centuries.

■ The post-War development of missile technology made it possible for relatively small ships to pack tremendous firepower, further spurring the return of frigates to navies around the world.

■ Today, frigates are primarily meant to serve as platforms for guided missile systems. They can serve in a variety of roles, from anti-submarine, anti-ship, and anti-aircraft warfare to land attacks, and can fight either solo or as part of a larger naval formation.

AMID US BILL PROPOSING TARIFFS ON RUSSIA'S TRADING PARTNERS

India's Russian oil imports touch 11-mth high in June

EXPLAINED

E India depends on imports to meet 88% of crude oil needs

INDIA DEPENDS on imports to meet around 88 per cent of its crude oil needs, and Russia has been the mainstay of India's oil imports for nearly three years now. With much of the West shunning Russian crude following the country's February 2022 invasion of Ukraine, Russia began offering discounts on its oil to willing buyers.

05.07.2025

From ISS, Shubhanshu Shukla to interact with students: What is **ham radio communication**?

Amateur radio was **first used** on a space shuttle to establish communication between space and **Earth in 1983**. Here is why Shukla will use it for communication.

- > Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla will today (July 4) interact with the country's students using a ham radio from the International Space Station (ISS).

What is a ham radio?

- > *Amateur radio, popularly known as ham radio*, is a licensed radio service that relies on radio waves for establishing communication.

- Ham radio service is largely deployed for

educational and knowledge purposes,
for emergency or SOS communication.

- Using

a dedicated frequency
+
a transceiver
+
an antenna

communication can be set up
between two licensed hams
by trained ham operators.

- > The communication can be

hyper-local
global and
in space.

- > In India,

Who can use?	Licensing authority
any individual above the age of 12 is permitted to operate a ham radio.	The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology issues these licences.

How ham radio has been used in space?

- > **First use:-**

Amateur radio was first used on a space shuttle to establish communication between space and Earth in 1983.

- > **ISS's ARISS:-**

The ISS *also has a ham radio*, known as the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (*ARISS*), which is often used to organise astronaut-student interactions.

- > **Objective:-**

The objective of such interactions is to inspire the young generation.

- > **Facilitating countries:-**

The amateur radio organisations along with the space agencies in the United States, Russia, Canada, Japan and Europe support this educational opportunity by providing equipment and operational support.

- **Docking issue:-**

Note that for safety purposes, the **ARISS schedules radio outages** at the ISS at the time of docking or such important activities. This is done to ensure that the radio does not interfere with any signals.

How would the Axiom-4 crew use ham radio?

- Ö The Axiom-4 mission's astronauts from India, Poland and Hungary will contact their respective countries using the ham radio twice during their 14-day stay at the ISS.

Whenever the ISS cruises past the horizon for a short period, an attempt to establish ham communication has been performed.

The **best window for this communication** can last anywhere **between five and eight minutes.**

For Shukla,
there would be
**a telephonic or an internet-
based call made to the US,**

→
and
→

subsequently,
**ham radio
communication would
be established**
with Shukla.

Why is ham radio an alternate mode of communication?

- Ö Even though the technology to establish communications has advanced, the radio remains one of the most reliable and stable modes of communication. It is effective and an alternate medium of establishing communication.
- Ö Previously, there have been instances when ham radio came to the rescue when traditional communication lines broke down, either due to man-made scenarios (like wars) or natural disasters such as earthquakes, cyclones, and floods.
- **In India, ham radio was used for making emergency contacts during the Bhuj earthquake (2001), the Indian Ocean tsunami (2004), the floods of Uttarakhand (2013)** and more such calamities.

How astronauts feast on ISS

While having a meal in space is not a piece of cake, astronauts enjoy fairly appetising and nutritious packaged food. With missions becoming longer, scientists are now trying to grow food in space itself

DEALING WITH BODY WASTE IN SPACE

While eating on the ISS is relatively easy, urinating and defecating is not. The lack of gravity becomes a big hurdle here.

■ In space, astronauts urinate into a specially-designed hose with a suction system. This hose, suited both for male and female anatomies, pulls the urine away from the astronaut's body and deposits it into specialised vessels. The stored urine is then purified and recycled aboard the ISS to create drinking water for astronauts. This is a must because liquids both consume space and take up weight — as such it is not viable to send enormous amounts of water required to sustain astronauts in space. Water must be used judiciously, and recycled wherever possible.

■ To defecate, astronauts sit on customised toilets which too are equipped with suction systems. These systems begin working the moment the toilet seat is lifted — this helps eliminate odour. Astronauts need to strap themselves firmly to the toilet seat to ensure they do not drift away while defecating.

Faecal matter is directed to waste containers. All solid waste, including toilet paper, wipes and gloves, are loaded onto cargo spacecraft returning to Earth. Most of it is released when the spacecraft is entering the Earth's atmosphere: here it gets burnt due to friction. Occasionally, some samples are sent to laboratories on Earth to check on the health of the astronauts.

(Ref :- CA June issue - Pg.No:- 38-39, 115-116)

Russian use of chemical weapons against Ukraine widespread, says Dutch minister

DUTCH AND German intelligence agencies have gathered evidence of widespread Russian use of banned chemical weapons in Ukraine, including dropping a choking agent from drones to drive soldiers out of trenches so they can be shot, they said Friday. Dutch Defence Minister Ruben Brekelmans called for tougher sanctions against Moscow.

The US first accused Russia of using chloropicrin, a chemical compound more toxic than riot control agents and first used by Germany during WWI, in May last year.

Chloropicrin :- used in agriculture as a soil fumigant

Use as chemical weapon:-

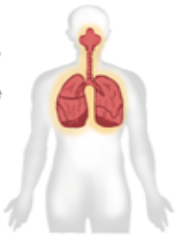
CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Types of chemical agents

1 Choking agents

Inflit damage along the nose, throat and lungs causing victims to choke

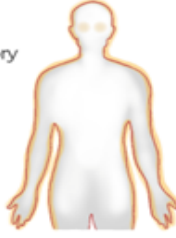
Agents:
Chlorine (Cl)
Chloropicrin (PS)
Diphosgene (DP)
Phosgene (CG)



2 Blister agents

Affect the eyes, respiratory tract, and skin causing large blisters which resemble severe burns

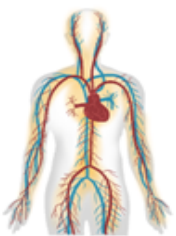
Agents:
Sulfur mustard (H, HD)
Nitrogen mustard (HN)
Lewisite (L)
Phosgene oxime (CX)



3 Blood agents

Inhibit the ability of cells to use oxygen, causing the body to suffocate

Agents:
Hydrogen cyanide (AC)
Cyanogen chloride (CK)
Arsine (SA)



4 Nerve agents

Overstimulate the body's nervous system leading to difficulty in breathing seizures or death

Agents:
Tabun (GA)
Sarin (GB)
Soman (GD)
Cyclosarin (GF)
VX



5 Riot control agents

A collection of chemicals that cause irritation to the eyes, skin and respiratory system.

Agents: Tear Gas (CS) Pepper Spray (OC)

Agent Orange

- Was used during Vietnam War (1962-71) by US
- Much of it contained a dangerous chemical contaminant called dioxin.
- The use of Agent Orange resulted in significant ecological damage, including deforestation and soil contamination, and has been linked to various health problems in exposed populations.

BEIJING TREATED FIGHTING AS LIVE LAB TO TEST WEAPONS GIVEN TO PAK

China gave Pakistan live inputs on Indian deployment: Top Army officer

EXPLAINED

E Amid moves to repair ties

THE ARMY'S remarks against China, almost two months after Op Sindoor, come even as Beijing and Delhi seek to repair ties following the disengagement of troops along the LAC in eastern Ladakh. The resumption of Mansarovar Yatra is a pointer to the efforts.

07.07.2025

ANDERSON-TENDULKAR TROPHY: SECOND TEST

India finds a captain, and a batting hero

GILL THRILL

269

Shubman Gill recorded the highest-ever Test score by an Indian captain, surpassing Virat Kohli's 254* (v SA, 2019). It was also Gill's highest First Class score, bettering his 268 for Punjab against Tamil Nadu in 2018.

1 Gill is the first Indian to hit an overseas Test double hundred since 2016.

2 Gill is only the second Indian Test captain after Virat Kohli (v WI, North Sound) to score an overseas double century.

3 He is also the third Indian batsman to score a double ton in England, bettering Gavaskar (221) and Dravid (217).

5 Gill is only the fifth Indian man to record a double hundred in SENA and the first to achieve the landmark since Tendulkar (241* vs Australia, Sydney) in 2004

6 For the first time in six years, India totalled 500-plus in an away Test (since 2019 Sydney Test; 622/7). India last crossed 500 in a Test in England in 2007.

587 The highest score conceded by England under Ben Stokes' captaincy since June 2022.
LALITH KALIDAS

Gill 2nd innings score : 161

A FIRST SINCE **1967**

India registered their first-ever Test victory at Edgbaston after a winless streak of eight matches (7 losses, 1 draw) since 1967.

2 India became only the second team in Test history to aggregate 1,000 runs and pick up all 20 wickets in a Test after Australia (v England at The Oval, 1938 and v West Indies at Sydney, 1969).

25 Shubman Gill (25 years 301 days) became the youngest Indian Test captain to record an away Test victory, bettering Sunil Gavaskar (26 years 202 days v New Zealand at Auckland in 1976).

336 India recorded its biggest away Test win (by runs), surpassing the 318-run win against West Indies in North Sound, 2016.



Shubman Gill celebrates after scoring the double century on Day 2 of the second Test at Edgbaston. His knock of 269 lasted 509 minutes and 387 balls. *ANI*

08.07.2025

EXPLAINED

E

**BRICS
accounts for
45% of global
population**

BRICS NOW accounts for 45% of the global population and contributes over 35% to the world's GDP. In October 2024, the founding five members—Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa—formally admitted Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE as new members. Indonesia joined the grouping in January 2025, bringing total membership to ten.

10.07.2025

2 IAF pilots killed near Churu, Rajasthan in Jaguar crash, third since March

Difficulty in low-level sorties

– where an aircraft flies at a height of **150 metres from the ground or less** – are especially challenging, as the jets are **more prone to bird hits or unmarked obstructions like mobile towers or windmills.**

Features:-

- One of the oldest fighter jets in the IAF inventory,

the Anglo-French origin aircraft
is a twin-engine ,
single-seater
deep-penetration strike aircraft,
with a maximum speed of 1,350 kmph.

Induction India

- The **first Jaguars** were inducted on July 26, **1979** in the 14 Squadron, **'The Fighting Bulls'**, at the Ambala air base.
 - ~ Currently, the IAF operates six squadrons of the Jaguar.

Upgradation

In 2010, the IAF had **planned to undertake engine upgrades** for its Jaguar fleet.

- ~ The plans, however, had to be **shelved due to the high cost** quoted by **Honeywell (US company)** and **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL),**

which integrates the aircraft.

- ~ They continue to be powered by the legacy Adour Mk811 and Mk804 engines.
- ~ The Jaguars, however, have been upgrading the avionics to extend their service life.
- ~ The latest DARIN III avionics upgrade is aimed at improving the aircraft's navigation and mission capabilities.
- ~ The upgrade process has been underway.

□ **Even with engine and avionics upgrades, you still face issues with airframe fatigue.**

Phasing out

- But, despite the avionics upgrades, the jets have an old airframe and operate on legacy engines.
- ~ The IAF plans to gradually phase out the ageing aircraft by **2035**, starting with the later half of this decade,

New induction

- ~ as it looks to induct modern aircraft including

the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft Tejas
and
the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft.

Jaguar is discontinued in countries

France,
the UK,
Nigeria and
Oman

→ have already discontinued the aircraft.

IS **PALM OIL** BAD FOR HEALTH? HERE'S WHAT THE SCIENCE SAYS

Social Media 's mislead

- A food and beverage industry association has said that the use of labels such as “palm oil free” or “no palm oil” are misleading, and rooted more in marketing than science.
- The Indian Food and Beverage Association (IFBA) said in a statement issued on Tuesday



that palm oil has been consumed by Indians since the 19th century, and that the oil has a well-rounded fatty acid profile.

- Palm oil is among the most affordable and versatile edible oils globally, **valued for its long shelf-life and neutral taste.**
- *Most packaged foods, including potato chips, biscuits, ice cream, and chocolates use palm oil.*

High in saturated fats...

- All oils mainly contain three types of fatty acids:

the "bad" (saturated)	the "good" (unsaturated)
saturated fatty acid (SFA)	mono-unsaturated fatty acid (MUFA)
	poly-unsaturated fatty acid (PUFA)

Knowhow

- Consumption of **oils with high SFAs**

↓
is known to **increase**
the levels of **bad cholesterol** (*low density lipoproteins*)

↓
which in turn **increases inflammation** in the body,
decreases insulin sensitivity, and
enhances the tendency of clot formation.

↓
Therefore, consuming such oils
can **increase the risk of heart attacks and strokes**,
as well as the **onset of type-2 diabetes.**

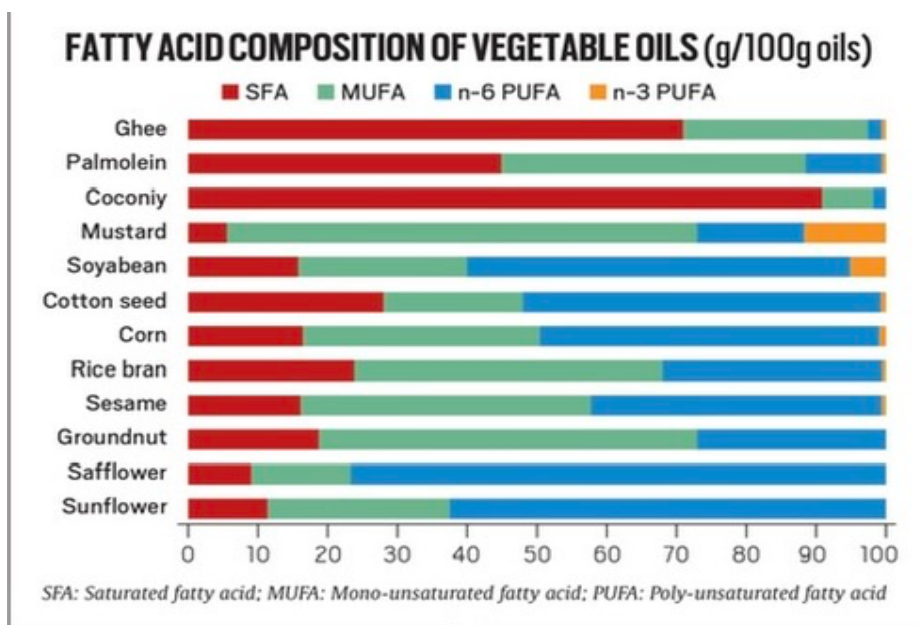
Fats that remain solid or semi-solid at room temperatures -
including palm oil, coconut oil, ghee, butter, and lard –
are high in saturated fatty acids.

- According to the Indian Dietary Guidelines, prepared by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), **coconut oil and ghee** have the **highest SFA content**, around **90 grams and 70 grams** respectively per 100 grams of oil.

- **Palmolein**, the liquid part of palm oil, contains around

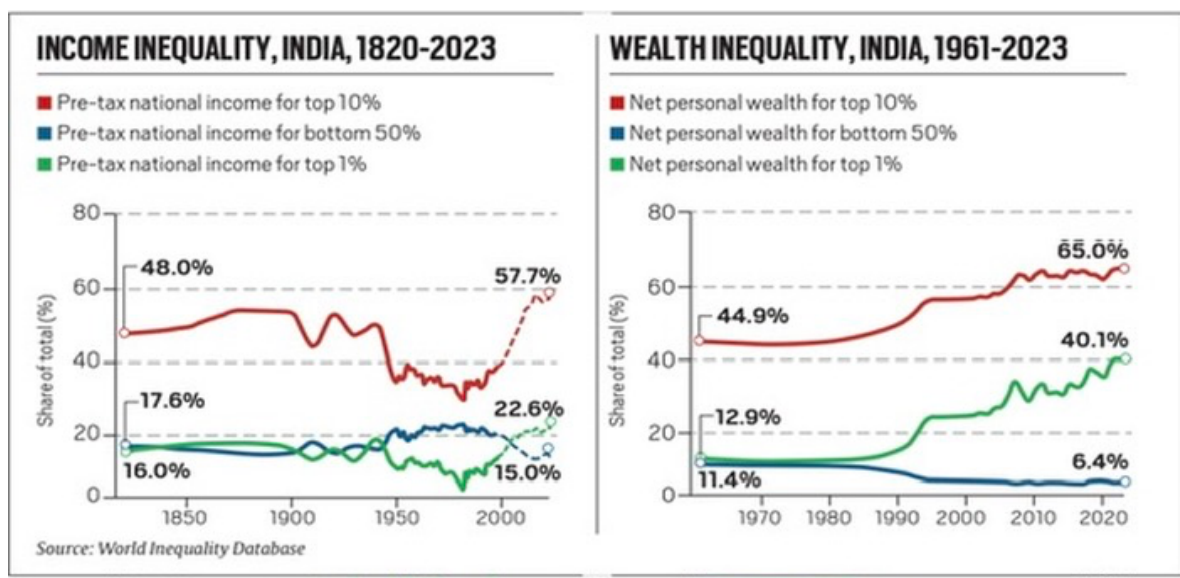
40 grams of SFA	40 grams of MUFA
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- **PUFA, Mustard, safflower, and sunflower** have the **lowest SFA content**,
less than 10 grams per 100 gram of oil.



Measuring inequality

Referring to a World Bank brief, the government has claimed India is world's 'fourth most equal country'. What does this conclusion miss? What are pitfalls of relying solely on consumption-based Gini Index?



(Reference :-

See Pg.No :- 16- 24 June, 2025 issue

239-244 Feb-May 2025)

13.07.2025

AI 171 FLIGHT LASTED 30 SECONDS BETWEEN LIFT-OFF AND CRASH

Both fuel switches 'cut off' before crash, one pilot heard saying 'didn't do it': Probe report

HOW AN AIRCRAFT'S ENGINE FUEL CONTROL SWITCHES WORK

THE FUEL control switches are used to start engines or shut them down on ground.

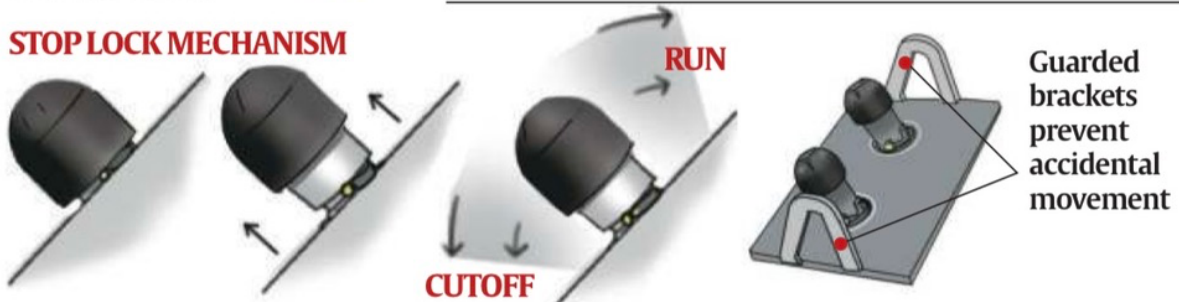
IN AIR, moving these switches may be required only in event of engine failure or damage that would require shutting off fuel supply for flight safety.

THE SWITCHES have a stop lock mechanism, which requires the pilots to lift the switch before changing position to either RUN or CUTOFF.



Fuel switches; those of the crashed AI flight. *Probe report*

STOP LOCK MECHANISM



EXPLAINED

E

How aircraft fuel switches work

Let's wait for final report... these are technical things... will be immature to comment:
Aviation Minister

FUEL SWITCHES regulate fuel flow to the jet's engine. Pilots and experts say, the movement of these critical switches have to be deliberate actions and their accidental movement is next to impossible. The switches have brackets on either side to protect them

Summary Pick:-

Primary cause of the crash

- The 15-page report from the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB), *an office attached to the Ministry of Civil Aviation*, has zeroed in on the most probable primary cause of the accident –

the **engines being starved of fuel**
|
with the transitioning of the fuel control switches
from **'RUN' to 'CUTOFF'**
|
position within a second of each other moments
after lift-off

- *After a few seconds in the CUTOFF position,*

the switches for **both engines** on the doomed aircraft
transitioned from **CUTOFF to RUN** position

|
evidently an attempt by the pilots
to recover thrust in the engines.

But given the extremely low altitude of the aircraft,

there **wasn't enough time** for the engines
to recover to a level

|
that would have allowed them to climb to safety.

Role of Stop Lock and Switches

- Additionally, there is a **stop lock mechanism**

that **requires the pilots to lift the switch** before moving it from either of its positions – RUN and CUTOFF – to the other.

These switches are usually moved only when the aircraft is **on ground** –

to start the engines before departure and to shut them down after landing.

Movement of either of the switches during the flight

would be required

only in the event of

the corresponding engine falling or suffering enough damage

that would require shutting off fuel supply to it to ensure flight safety.

Can either switch be moved while airborne

- ✚ This need would arise in the case of **an engine failure or a major issue with the performance of an engine, or notable damage to the engine.**

- In such eventualities, the **pilots would act to shut down the problematic engine**, which would require the fuel control switch corresponding to that engine being moved **from RUN to CUTOFF**.
 - This would immediately cut fuel supply to the corresponding engine, resulting in an almost instant loss of thrust in it.

- The pilots **may also switch off fuel supply and then immediately switch it on** → → if they believe that the affected engine could be restarted safely.

‡ It is important to note here that such an action would mostly involve moving just one fuel control switch, and not both.

- Modern dual engine air craft can operate for hours on a single functional engine.
- One of the speculative theories, unsubstantiated by any official information, doing rounds about the AI 171 crash was that the aircraft might have possibly lost one engine upon take-off and the pilots mistakenly misidentified the problematic engine and instead shut down the working engine.

This is the initial report, not final:-

- ☐ The preliminary report is only an account of the initial findings of the investigation, and is subject to change on the basis of the progress of the probe over the coming months.
- ☐ Air crash accident investigations are extremely complex and time-consuming exercises, taking months and some times even years to conclusively identify the causes.
- ☐ The AAIB is **expected to release** the final probe report **within a year of the crash.**

(Reference :- See Pg.No :- 55-64 June, 2025 issue)

15.07.2025

This article is important from the aspect of:-

- 1) How does and to what extent it possible for a country like India to intervene or influence the verdict of another country's judiciary especially in the death row cases? [official & unofficial both]
- 2) Sharia law....Blood money etc concept.

Yemen is Houthis controlled

Nimisha Priya Case: Major Developments and Timeline

Year/Month	Event
2008	Priya moves to Yemen, works as nurse, later opens a clinic.
2015	Opens Al Aman Medical Clinic with Mehdi as co-owner.
Mar 2015	Yemen's civil war intensifies, worsening local conditions.
2016	Priya reports harassment and document seizure by Mehdi, does not receive police help.
July 2017	Priya attempts to recover her passport by sedating Mehdi, who dies; later arrested.

Aug 2017	Arrested while trying to flee the country.
2018	Convicted of murder and sentenced to death; legal assistance reportedly inadequate.
2020	Death sentence upheld; Save Nimisha Priya International Action Council formed.
Nov 2023	Appeal dismissed by Yemen's Supreme Judicial Council.
Apr 2024	Priya's family negotiates with victim's family over blood money.
Jun 2024	Over \$40,000 raised as potential "diyah" (blood money) offer.
15 Jul 2025	Execution, initially scheduled for 16 July 2025, is officially postponed after diplomatic and religious interventions.

Firm stand of the victim's family

- Rejected all efforts at reconciliation, including offers of '**diyat**' (blood money)
- They only want '**Qisas**' (retribution)

Executing date nears, Centre to SC: **‘Nothing much govt can do’**

- The Centre on Monday informed the Supreme Court that it has done all it could to save Kerala nurse Nimisha Priya, who is set to be executed on July 16 in Yemen on murder charges.
- “There’s nothing much the government can do... looking at the sensitivity of Yemen...**It’s not diplomatically recognised...** There’s a point till which the government of India can go. We have reached that. Yemen is not like any other part of the world. We didn’t want to complicate the situation by going public, **we are trying at a private level**,” Attorney-General R Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, said.

India, which has **no diplomatic presence in Yemen** due to the ongoing civil war, has been handling the case through its embassy in **Saudi Arabia**.

- The attorney-general pointed out that “**blood money is a private negotiation...**” He added, “There’s no way we can get to know what is really happening. We have been trying...”
- He said the government had even reached out to an influential sheikh in Yemen and requested the public prosecutor to suspend the execution.
- The counsel said that “good Samaritans are unable to help because it is Yemen. We are even willing to pay higher blood money to save her”.

The case

- > **Priya, who hails from Palakkad, Kerala, was found guilty of murdering her employer Talal Abdo Mahdi in 2017.**
 - ~ She was arrested while trying to flee Yemen and sentenced to death in 2018.
- > **After becoming a qualified nurse, Priya moved to Yemen in 2008.**
 - ~ In 2011, she married Tomy Thomas in Kerala.
 - ~ **Both wanted to start their own clinic, but under Yemeni law, this required them to partner with a local.**
- > The couple approached Talal Abdo Mehdi, a regular at the clinic where Priya worked as a nurse, for help.
 - ~ **Once the clinic started, however, Mahdi allegedly subjected her to abuse and took her travel documents.**
 - ~ It is alleged that Priya, with the help of fellow nurse Hannan, tried to sedate Mahdi to get her papers back, but an **overdose led to his death.**
 - ~ The duo then chopped Mahdi's body and dumped it in a water tank. Both were eventually arrested.
- > **The death sentence was awarded to her by a trial court in Yemen and upheld by the country's Supreme Court.**
 - ~ Last year, **Yemen's President Rashad al-Alimi approved the death sentence** for the 38-year-old woman. The order has been with the prosecutor since January this year.

Sharia, or Islamic law,

- is a comprehensive system of religious law derived from the Quran, the **Sunnah** [teachings and practices of the Prophet Muhammad], and scholarly interpretations.

- It provides guidance on various aspects of Muslim life, including worship, personal conduct, family matters, and financial transactions.
- While Sharia is a central part of Islamic faith, its implementation and interpretation vary across different Muslim-majority countries and communities.

Islamic Law Guides 35 Nations

Islamic or Sharia law is the world's most widely used religious legal system, with 35 countries adhering to it either strictly or within a hybrid system that incorporates Sharia with civil, common or customary law. Iran, Saudi Arabia and 12 states in northern Nigeria apply fundamentalist interpretations of Sharia, which call for stoning and amputations for adultery and theft, but they are rarely used. Hybrid systems are used in most other Muslim countries.

Countries Following Sharia Law



*Twelve states in northern Nigeria adhere to strict Sharia law: Zamfara, Kano, Sokoto, Katsina, Bauchi, Borno, Jigawa, Kebbi, Yobe, Kaduna, Niger and Gombe.

Source: "Legal System," *The World Factbook*, Central Intelligence Agency, 2011, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/fields/2100.html>; map by Lewis Agrell

Life sentence, Rs 10-lakh fine:

Anti-sacrilege Bill introduced in Punjab House

Sacrilege against Religious scripts.

Nature of the law

cognizable
non-bailable
non-compoundable
such cases will be tried in a sessions court

Punishment

Committed Sacrilege	Maximum	to life imprisonment and fine of up to Rs 10 lakh
	Minimum	minimum imprisonment of 10 years and minimum fine of Rs 5 lakh
Attempting Sacrilege	may face a jail term of 3-5 years, and shall also be liable to pay a fine which <u>may extend up to</u> Rs 3 lakh.	

Investigation

by an officer not below the rank of **Deputy Superintendent of Police**.

Summary of the Bill

- The Bill defines offence as any sacrilege, damage, destruction, defacing, disfiguring, de-colouring, de-filling, decomposing, burning, breaking or tearing of **any holy scripture or part thereof**. The words and expressions used,

but not defined in this Bill shall have the same meanings as, respectively, assigned to them in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023.



Note :- This one is for your paving future

'Denotes lack of trust': Secretly recorded phone call by spouse can be used as evidence in divorce cases, says SC

The Punjab and Haryana High Court held that recording the wife's telephonic conversation without her knowledge amounts to a "clear breach of the fundamental right of the petitioner-wife, i.e, her right to privacy".

- Ö **Spouses snooping on each other "Is in itself a symptom of a broken relationship and denotes a lack of trust between them"**, the Supreme Court said Monday as it set aside a Punjab and Haryana High Court order held that secretly recorded telephonic conversations of parties in a marriage cannot be admitted as evidence in divorce proceedings.
- Ö A bench of Justices B V Nagarathna and S C Sharma rejected the argument by amicus curiae Advocate Vrinda Grover "that permitting such an evidence would jeopardise domestic harmony and matrimonial relationship inasmuch as it would encourage snooping on the spouse, thereby fracturing the very objective of Section 122 of the Evidence Act".
- Ö Writing for the bench, Justice Nagarathna said, "We do not think such an argument is tenable. If the marriage has reached a stage where spouses are

actively snooping on each other, that is in itself a symptom of a broken relationship and denotes a lack of trust between them. The said snooping cannot be said to be a consequence of the Court admitting the evidence obtained by snooping. **In fact, snooping between partners is an effect and not a cause of marital disharmony.**”

‡ **Section 122 bars** disclosure of marital communications without consent, except in legal proceedings between the spouses or where one is prosecuted for a crime against the other.

Ö The judgment said that while the “*privacy of communication exists between spouses, as has been recognised by Section 122*”, but the said **right of privacy cannot be absolute** and has to be read also in light of the exception provided...”

Ö Discussing the admissibility of electronic evidence vis-a-vis right to privacy,

~ the court also touched on the keep up with the advancements in technology and said “now, in today’s day and age, when the technological advancement has made it easier to record and recreate moments of past and present for reference in future, then to say that such better forms of evidence and material would not be admissible on the ground of they being in violation of the right to privacy would amount to defeating the very object of the Evidence Act.”

Ö It said that “before a Court of law, a relevant piece of conversation available on an electronic device should not be allowed to be shut out when it is the best evidence available for deciding the dispute.

~ The erstwhile Evidence Act is a legislation that was more than a century old and therefore obviously could not encapsulate all the technologically varied challenges which the modern technology poses before us.

~ Yet, what the said legislation remarkably conveys is that the purpose of the law of evidence is not to create barriers but to break them to ensure that a clearer picture is created in the mind of the judge so as to decide a dispute before it.

~ This is why when the evidence is not direct, the legislation allows a judge to rely on circumstantial evidence; it allows presumptions of fact and law and adverse inferences to be drawn from the conduct of parties and witnesses so that a fair

and reasonable conclusion can be reached from the material on record.”

- Ö The ruling said, “that was the reason for the Parliament to amend the Evidence Act by incorporating **Section 65B** which specifically deals with electronic evidence.”
 - Ö The Bathinda Family Court allowed the husband to place reliance on recorded telephone calls with his wife to prove allegations of cruelty.
 - ~ The wife challenged this before the high court, arguing that their conversations were recorded without her consent, and allowing it to be used as evidence would breach her fundamental right to privacy.
-
-

16.07.2025

Back on Earth

Shukla & team
return; he has
inspired a billion
dreams, says PM

Recovery after space journey

Shubhanshu Shukla, the first Indian on the ISS, is back to Earth, but it will be a few days before he can be his normal self. The body is impacted by microgravity, and needs to readjust to conditions on Earth

Ö

Only the **second Indian** to travel to space,
and
the **first from the country to visit** the
International Space Station (**ISS**),

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla **returned to Earth** on Tuesday (15th July), → → **after a 20-day landmark space journey** → → that prepares the ground for India's own human spaceflight mission, **Gaganyaan**.

Ö Exactly 50 minutes earlier, the **space capsule**, named **Grace**, carrying **Shukla**, Peggy Whitson from the **US**, Slawosz Uznanski-Wisniewski of **Poland** and Tibor Kapu of **Hungary**,

had splashed down in the cold waters of the **Pacific Ocean**,
off the coast of **California**.

Ö After detaching from the ISS on Monday afternoon, the spacecraft **took about 20 hours to reach Earth.**

- ~ On its way, it made another few rounds of the Earth, giving the astronauts some more opportunities to view it from space.
- ~ During their **18-day stay on the ISS**, the astronauts completed 288 revolutions of the Earth.

Ö **After the splashdown**, which happened at about 3 pm India time (2.30 am Tuesday in California),

the spacecraft **was towed by ropes to a waiting ship,**

before being **lifted by cranes and placed on the ship deck.**

There, one by one, the astronauts were helped out,

as they felt the weight of their bodies for the first time since their journey to space on the Axiom-4 mission on June 25.

Ö Whitson (US) was the first to come out, followed by Shukla, and the two others.

Ö After the 20-day stay in **microgravity conditions in space**, their bodies need time to get accustomed to Earth once again. They required assistance in being pulled out of the space capsule, in standing up on their feet, and in walking.

Ö The first thing they did after coming out of the space capsule was to ***undergo a health check*** by a waiting team of doctors on the ship.

Shortly thereafter, the astronauts **were airlifted by a helicopter to the NASA Space Center in Houston,**

where they will spend the next few days, **resting and recovering, and briefing** the Axiom Space, NASA and other teams on the journey, and the experiments that they carried out in space.

Throughout this period, their **health parameters will be monitored constantly.** Astronauts usually take a few days to about a week to regain normalcy after their return from space.

□ **Axiom-4 mission**

- was a **commercial** human spaceflight journey to the ISS,
- **managed by** → → **Axiom Space**, a **private US company**,
and
facilitated by → → US space agency **NASA**.
- The **rocket and spacecraft** used for the mission **came from**
SpaceX, the world's largest private space corporation.

- The participation of **Shukla** — a **fighter pilot** with the Indian Air Force who was selected as one of the four astronauts for Gaganyaan — in the Axiom-4 mission

was the result of a **strategic partnership forged between NASA** and the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) in **2023**.

Through the **Gaganyaan programme**, India is hoping to send its **first crewed mission to space by 2027**.

- The Axiom-4 mission provided ISRO an opportunity to gain some first-hand experience in human spaceflight missions ahead of the Gaganyaan launch. The knowledge and experience gained during **Shukla's space journey — 41 years after Rakesh Sharma travelled to space on the then Soviet Union's Soyuz T-11 spacecraft** — would be invaluable for ISRO as well as other astronauts who go on future missions.
- ISRO had also designed several experiments for the Axiom-4 mission that would further its space research activities. Shukla carried out those experiments and participated in several others as well.
- The Axiom-4 mission **not only carried one of the largest number of scientific experiments — 60 experiments representing 31 countries — but it also represented the return of astronauts**

from three countries, India, Hungary and Poland, back in space after four decades.

- This is why the mission was themed “**Realise the Return**”.

Simpler, safer:

Why spacecraft prefer

splashdowns over landing on ground

Why water is preferred

- > Splashdown is generally a simpler and safer option. **When a spacecraft begins to re-enter the Earth’s atmosphere**, at an altitude of 110-120 km, it is usually travelling at speeds up to 27,359 km per hour. **There isn’t enough time for it to decelerate to speeds that are suitable for a vertical landing on the ground.** Additional braking systems, and structures like landing legs would be required.
- > It is safer to land a spacecraft in water even when it is travelling at **25-30 km per hour** – the speed of the Axiom-4 spacecraft at the time of splashdown.
 - The **low viscosity and high density of water** provides much greater cushion. While it does not ensure a completely smooth landing, it absorbs enough shock from the impact to avoid damage to the spacecraft’s structure, payload, or the crew inside.
- > The other reason is the **availability of vast open spaces.**
 - On the ground, the landing location has to be precisely defined; in the ocean, there is no danger of hitting something else even if the spacecraft is dragged a bit off-course by air or water currents.

‡ *The capsules are designed to float on water.*

- ~ They are conical in shape, and
- ~ either their top or bottom (depending on how they land) is rounded metal,
- ~ which works like the hull of a ship, and keeps them bobbing on the surface.

How landing is executed

> When a spacecraft **re-enters the Earth's atmosphere**

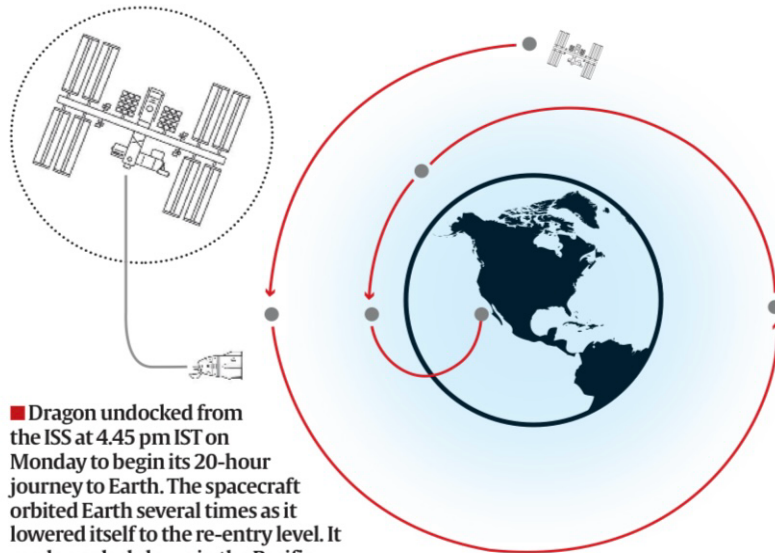
it **experiences deceleration due to friction.**

But additional measures are required to slow it to safe speeds.

One such method is the use of parachutes.	Spacecraft usually deploy two drag (or drogue) parachutes first , which stabilise the vehicle following re-entry, and reduce speed . The Dragon spacecraft deploys these parachutes at around 18,000 feet.
	At about 6,500 feet, the drogue parachutes are detached , and the four main parachutes are released , which continue to slow the spacecraft further .
<u>The spacecraft does not travel vertically to Earth,</u> - <i>but glides down at an angle.</i>	<u>From the point of re-entry to touchdown,</u> it traverses a distance of 5,000-7,000 km. During this time, its <u>speed comes down to about 25-30 km per hour</u> , which is safe for a splash down in the ocean.

HOW SHUKLA RETURNED FROM THE ISS

SpaceX's Crew Dragon spacecraft transported Shubhanshu Shukla and others to the International Space Station and also brought them back. It remained docked to the ISS for the period the astronauts were on board.



■ Dragon undocked from the ISS at 4.45 pm IST on Monday to begin its 20-hour journey to Earth. The spacecraft orbited Earth several times as it lowered itself to the re-entry level. It made a splashdown in the Pacific Ocean at 3 pm IST on Tuesday.



The Axiom-4 crew were assisted out of the Dragon spacecraft onto the recovery vehicle, after their return from the ISS on Tuesday. *Axiom Space/ANI*



1 Crew Dragon autonomously undocks from the ISS, and uses its boosters to move away from the space laboratory. *Illustration/NASA*



2 Before re-entering the Earth's atmosphere, Dragon detaches its trunk to reduce mass and save fuel. *Illustration/SpaceX*

3 Dragon's two drag parachutes are deployed at an altitude of 18,000 feet, followed by four main parachutes at 6,500 feet (right). *NASA*



4 The four main parachutes reduce Dragon's speed drastically as it glides down at an angle for a safe splashdown. *NASA*

(Ref :- CA June issue – Pg.No:- 38-39, 115-116
CA July 2025 issue – Pg. No:- 22-25)

Tesla cruises into India, with Mumbai as first stop for its Model Y variant

KEY FEATURES



Amit Ckavrarty

₹59.89 lakh

STANDARD: 500 km

₹67.89 lakh

LONG-RANGE: 622 km

TOUCHSCREEN:

15.4 inch front row,
8 inch second row

17.07.2025

ACT OF DISRESPECT

De facto house arrest, manhandling of Omar Abdullah, was an unseemly spectacle. Onus is on L-G's office to make amends

<u>Topic</u>	Martyrs' Day's (July 13) house arrest and manhandling of J&K CM
	LG's office should be checked
	Centre should resist itself from taking backward steps

	CM's condemnation of Pahalgam attack and solidarity with Centre	CM's no confrontation approach with Centre after getting elected in last of 2024	
		J&K presently UT status	
		Demand for Statehood	both the Centre and the Supreme Court have promised

<u>Martyrs' Day</u>	▪ Martyrs' Day has both historical and political significance. It marks the killing of 22 protestors by the Dogra monarch's police in 1931.	
	<u>Role in politics :-</u> Govt Separatists PoK Pakistan	Sheikh Abdullah, his successors, separatists and even leaders in PoK and Pakistan have invoked the moment for political ends.

In the Aftermath of the terrorist attack in Pahalgam on April 22, Omar Abdullah, the first elected Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, condemned the heinous act and expressed solidarity, in a way that was both empathetic and striking, with the families of the 26 tourists who were killed. He called a special one-day session of the Assembly. The gesture emphasised that the people of J&K participated in the nation's grief, and endorsed the diplomatic measures announced by the Centre. As CM this time, Omar Abdullah has been seen to avoid a confrontationist tone with the Centre and its powerful nominee, the L-G. J&K's ruling coalition has not insisted on the restoration of special

status – it has pressed the demand for statehood, which both the Centre and the Supreme Court have promised. But even as Omar Abdullah has shown accommodation and flexibility, the Centre seems to be taking backward steps. Visuals of CM Abdullah being placed under de facto house arrest by an unelected administration on Martyrs' Day, July 13, and of him being manhandled by police personnel, are unseemly and deeply disturbing.

Martyrs' Day has both historical and political significance. It marks the killing of 22 protestors by the Dogra monarch's police in 1931. Sheikh Abdullah, his successors, separatists and even leaders in PoK and Pakistan have invoked the moment for political ends. After the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019, the holiday was scrapped by the J&K administration. The CM's insistence on visiting the cemetery where those killed in 1931 are buried can be seen as a political statement – a way to distance himself from the Centre and the L-G. But why should that invite this bizarre spectacle of punishment choreographed by the L-G's office, its strings evidently pulled by the Centre?

The UT administration's actions risk denting the people's trust framed in the heartening **turnout of 63.9 per cent in last year's polls**, among the highest in the region's electoral history. The Centre has long claimed that, since August 5, 2019, the erstwhile state has made strides across sectors, including in law and order and security. It has made it clear that the question of statehood is not if but when. **An overzealous Raj Bhavan, and its political masters at the Centre, should not undo the hard-won gains in the UT. It is now for the L-G's office to make amends.**

18.07.2025

WHAT TO KNOW ABOUT THE AFRICAN KINGDOM OF ESWATINI, WHERE THE US SENT 5 DEPORTEES

- The United States has deported five immigrants from Vietnam, Jamaica, Cuba, Yemen, and Laos to Eswatini,



a small country in **southern Africa** where
the **king still holds absolute power.**
(only country in Africa)

- *Eswatini, which has become the latest nation to accept third-country deportees from the US,* has said it is holding the men in correctional facilities until they can be sent to their home countries.

Third Country Removal Agreements

Nations accepting U.S. deportees from countries other than their own.

- 1) South Sudan**
- 2) El Salvador**
- 3) Uzbekistan**
- 4) Eswatini**

Quick Facts : Land locked kingdom of Eswatini

The king is supreme

- Eswatini is one of a handful of countries that are still **absolute monarchies**, and the only one in Africa. That means the king has absolute power over the government and is not just a figurehead or a ceremonial ruler.
 - **King Mswati III** has ruled Eswatini since 1986, when he turned 18 and was allowed to take his place as the monarch. He can make decisions by decree. He succeeded his father, Sobhuza II, who died in 1982.
 - The now 57-year-old Mswati III has long been criticised for running a government that suppresses political dissent, while he lives a **lavish lifestyle in one of the poorest countries in the world.** He has been the subject of scrutiny for buying luxury cars, and his personal wealth has been estimated at between \$200 million and \$500 million. This is in stark contrast with the king's subjects – the World Bank says more than half of Eswatini's 1.2 million people live on less than \$4 a day.

No Political parties

Political parties were banned by Sobhuza II in 1973. Some exist now, but they are not allowed to play any role in elections or the political process, and function essentially as civic society groups. Candidates seeking public office in Eswatini's parliament of Senate stand as individuals without any party affiliation and are generally approved by traditional leaders loyal to king Mswati III.

*Some pro-democracy protests have been seen in recent years, which Eswatini authorities under Mswati III have been accused of **crushing**. Many dissidents live in exile.*

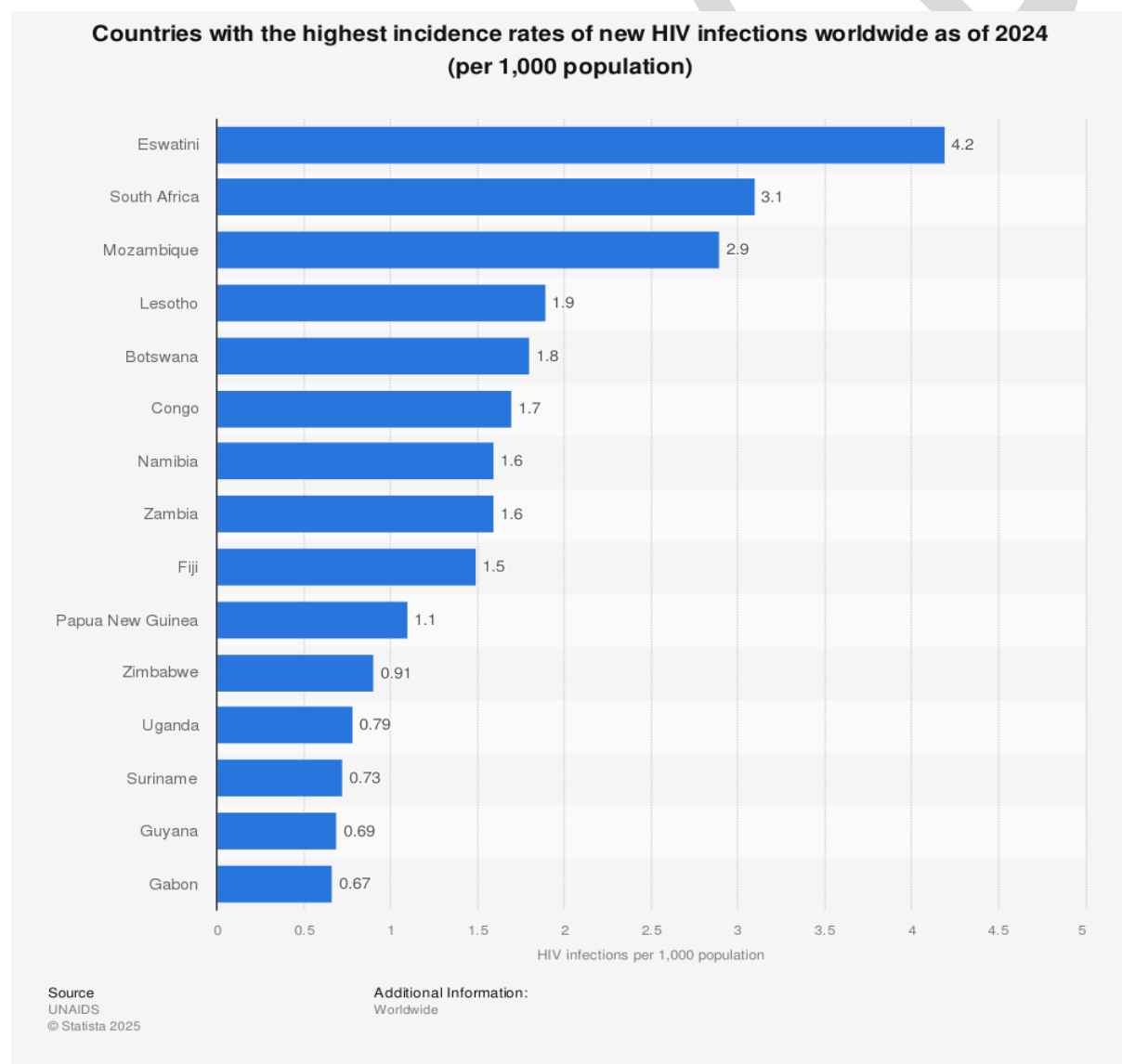
Previously Swaziland

The country was previously known as **Swaziland**. It changed its name to Eswatini in 2018 after the king announced it should revert to its traditional name in the Swazi language. **British colonial rule over the country ended in 1968.**

Severely affected by HIV

Eswatini has the **highest prevalence of HIV in the world**, with an estimated **26% of the adult populations being HIV positive**, according to the United Nations AIDS agency (UNAIDS). Progress in the **battle against** the disease is heavily **dependent on foreign aid, including assistance from the US**, which, however, has been cut by the Trump administration.

✚ Several countries in **sub-Saharan Africa** have the highest HIV prevalence rates globally.





Recent Language row unrest issues in India

Language issue is a distraction

Linguistic divisions have got an alarming amount of air time and newsprint, while our garbage-laden streets are sinking in the monsoon

To defend your language, you must reject all others. The irony is, for all this posturing on linguistic pride, if somebody were to offer these injured regional patriots a magic potion of immediate English fluency, it wouldn't take them a microsecond to kiss their mother tongue goodbye.

It masks a deeper anxiety

Language forms the basis of culture and identity. Lumpen politics aside, concerns should not be dismissed

If well-being is seen merely as a ladder that is more isolating with each rung, the haves have no reason to engage with anything outside their bubble. Such a narrow life impoverishes cultures and cities. No language should be imposed. However, learning a language opens up a world.

19.07.2025

China's export restrictions should make India rethink **fertiliser pricing**

If import dependence is a given, the policy response, too, must adjust to that reality. Unfortunately, that has not been the case with fertilisers

- **A good monsoon**, with India overall receiving 8.4% above average rain for the current season from June 1 till July 18, has led to brisk sowing of most kharif crops. The comfortable water situation — rainfall was a whopping 106.4 per cent surplus even in May due to the **monsoon arriving eight days before schedule** — has, however, had a flip side:

- Reports from the ground suggest

shortages of both

di-ammonium phosphate (**DAP**)
and
urea fertilisers.

- **Stock of both lower than the previous year**

This is also reflected in stocks of DAP, at 1.3 million tonnes (MT) as on June 30, being lower than the 1.9 MT for the same date in 2024. Urea stocks, too, at 6.1 MT, have been below the corresponding year-ago level of 10.3 MT.

Reason for high demand		
<u>Early onset of Monsoon</u> Lower stocks relative to higher demand from farmers, <u>courtesy of the monsoon's early onset and good rains thereafter conducive to sowing</u> , have created supply shortfalls and long queues at many distribution centres.	<u>China factor</u> It's, however, not just the monsoon-induced demand. No less significant is the China factor.	
	In 2023-24,	China supplied 2.3 mt out of the total 5.6 mt DAP (42%) imported by India. It also accounted for 2.1 mt out of India's 8 mt of urea imports (27%)
	But in 2024-25,	imports of both DAP and urea fell to 4.6 mt and 6.9 mt, with those from China falling even more to 0.8 mt (17%) and 0.1 mt (1.5%) respectively.



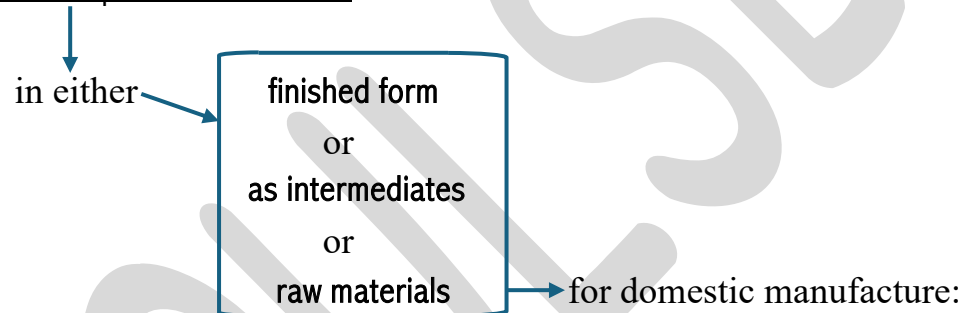
Simply put, China's unpredictable export restrictions	
have caused a global supply squeeze	
Rare earth elements and magnets	not only in rare earth elements and magnets used in electric vehicles and consumer electronic devices,

**Nitrogenous
and
Phosphatic
fertilisers**

but also nitrogenous
and phosphatic
fertilisers that are
essential for crop
growth and
development.

India's pain point:-

- And these hurt India,
which imports fertilisers



The country **has hardly any
mineable rock phosphate
or
potash reserves,**

while **more than half of its
natural gas,
the main feedstock
in urea,
is imported.**

Ö India imports more Urea than DAP)

Ö India's import on DAP and Urea
has fallen this year on comparison to 2023-24

Policy revisit:-

- If import dependence is a given, the policy response, too, must adjust to that reality.

*Unfortunately, that has not been the case with fertilisers, where **political considerations** have engendered the most **perverse outcomes**.*

☐ Overapplication due to the subsidized price

The underpricing of **urea** and DAP — farmers are paying for the former almost the **same** as what they were some **12 years ago** — has resulted in their over-application.

☐ Resulted in hindrance to the use of new product

Also, it has hindered the introduction of new products that allow the same nutrients to be better absorbed by the plants and converted into biomass (yield) or are customised to meet the specific requirements of a crop, soil type and local climate.

Inference

Compare this with the increasing adoption of electric vehicles, solar pumps and rooftop panels: Would this have been possible had petrol and diesel remained super-subsidised? That lesson is as relevant for fertilisers. The China supply shock presents an opportunity to learn and reform.

UPSC's initiative to provide employment pathways for unsuccessful candidates is welcome

The problems in India's labour markets, however, require deeper and far-reaching policy changes

- Every year, lakhs of people prepare for and sit the Civil Services (Preliminary) Examination. In **2024**, for instance,

Applied	9.9 lakhs
Appeared	5.8 lakh
Qualified for Written (Main)	14,627
Qualified for Personality Test	2,845
Recommended	1,009

- The lakhs who don't make the list each year either opt for another attempt — in the general category, candidates have **six attempts** — or start their professional life, often belatedly.
- There are several challenges posed by a **late entry into the job market.**
 - ~ Some of the candidates have *competition from younger counterparts and the lack of work experience* makes their predicament even more difficult.
 - ~ The *spin-offs on lifetime earnings* are not difficult to gauge, especially because many end up employed in occupations that are either not in line with their qualifications or possibly at junior levels.

- An initiative by the UPSC is now providing pathways to the unsuccessful candidates for securing gainful employment.

§ Under the **Public Disclosure Scheme (PDS)**,

called

PRATIBHA Setu

now,

the Commission has started **publicly disclosing information on the non-recommended, willing candidates of the exams it conducts.**

§ The UPSC conducts several exams every year — some of the examinations,
other than the **Civil Services Examination**, included under this scheme are the

- 1) Indian Forest Service Examination,
- 2) Central Armed Police Forces (ACs) Examination
- 3) Engineering Services Examination
- 4) Combined Geo-Scientist Examination
- 5) C.D.S. Examination
- 6) Indian Economic Service/Indian Statistical Service Examination
- 7) Combined Medical Services Examination

§ The non-recommended candidates are those “**who qualify the written examinations but are not recommended after the interview**”.

§ The portal provides information on these candidates.

§ According to a report in this newspaper,

- it also provides subject- and discipline-wise search facilities to organisations,

- enabling them to pick out candidates who meet their requirements.
- By doing so, this facility is helping match candidates available in the labour market with prospective employers.

‡ UPSC PRATIBHA Setu was **first introduced** on August 20, **2018**

‡ Allows verified employers – including **ministries, PSUs, autonomous bodies,** and **private organization**, must register and receive login credentials via the UPSC portal.

Feeding stray dogs: **how law balances questions of** **compassion & public order**

The Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta were hearing an appeal filed by a Noida resident who had been allegedly harassed for feeding stray dogs in the common areas of her housing society.

- The Supreme Court observed this week that citizens who wished to feed stray dogs should consider doing so inside their own homes.
- The **Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta** were hearing an appeal filed by a Noida resident who had been allegedly harassed for feeding stray dogs in the common areas of her housing society.
- **The strongly polarising issue of feeding community dogs has frequently led to litigation over the years.** Courts have weighed in on questions of constitutional protections, local governance, and claims over shared civic spaces.

Background of case

§ Brief of the case

- The president of the Residents' Welfare Association (RWA) of the petitioner's society had allegedly broken some pots in which she had kept water for stray animals, harassed her, and killed 10 sterilised stray dogs.
- Local authorities had taken no action on her complaints, and had instead asked her to not place the pots again.

§ Allahabad HC's rejection

- The woman had then approached Allahabad High Court, which had **dismissed her petition** **in the interest of the "common man"**.
- The court had said that the

Animal Birth Control Rules, 2023 (ABC Rules)

~ did warrant the protection of street dogs,

but "the authorities will have to bear in mind the **concern of common man**, such that their movement on streets are not hampered by attacks by these street dogs".

- **The ABC Rules, 2023,**
notified under

The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960.

- ~ seek to control stray dog populations through **sterilisation**, and to curb the spread of rabies by **vaccinating them.**
- ~ The Rules lay down protocols to ensure that the feeding of dogs respects both animal welfare and public safety.

‘Stray’ to ‘community’

- § The ABC Rules, which replaced the Animal Birth Control (Dog) Rules, 2001, use the expression “**community animals**” *instead of “stray dogs”* — recognising that **these dogs are not ownerless intruders but territorial beings** that inhabit and belong to their local environments.
- § The Supreme Court has interpreted the **constitutionally guaranteed** **right to life and liberty** **as extending to animals as well.** Art 21
 - In its verdict in the **2014 Jallikattu case**, the top court held that **animal life falls within the meaning of Article 21** of the Constitution (Animal Welfare Board of India vs A. Nagaraja).
- § Also, **Article 51A(g)** *places a fundamental duty on citizens* **“to have compassion for living creatures”.** Art 51A(g)
- § All this means that *the presence of dogs in residential areas cannot automatically be considered unlawful.*
 - *Nor can those who feed them be considered offenders unless their actions violate specific behavioural and spatial guidelines set by the law.*

Rules for feeding dogs

- § Rule 20 of the ABC Rules, 2023 (“Feeding of Community Animals”) states that “it shall be responsibility of the Resident Welfare Association or Apartment Owner Association or Local Body’s representative... to make necessary arrangement for feeding of community animals” **if**

someone living in that area “feeds or provides care to street animals as a compassionate gesture”.

- § The Rule states that the feeding locations **must be away from high-footfall areas** like staircases, building entrances, and children’s play areas.
 - The designated spaces must be kept **clean and litter-free**, and community dogs **should be fed at an appointed time**.
- § The Rule also lays down **a dispute resolution mechanism** involving the chief veterinary officer, representatives of the police, the district Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, organisations conducting animal birth control, and the RWA.
- § The big picture is that dogs have a right to be fed, but this must be done in ways that minimise disruption to shared social spaces. The Rules try to **strike a balance between compassion and public order.**

Previous court order

- § In March 2023, the **Bombay High Court** in *Sharmila Sankar & Ors v. Union of India* **ruled in favour of residents** who had faced opposition from their housing societies for feeding dogs.
 - The court said that RWAs and societies cannot restrict the feeding of community animals or threaten or penalise individuals who do so.
 - The court affirmed that the ABC Rules have “the force of law”.

(Reference :- See Pg.No :- 128 July, 2025 issue)

TRUMP DIAGNOSED WITH

CHRONIC VENOUS INSUFFICIENCY (CVI).

WHAT IS IT?

- △ The White House said on Thursday that US President Donald Trump had been diagnosed with chronic venous insufficiency (CVI). It is a fairly common condition in people older than 70. (Trump is 79.)
- △ As was reported to the media that
the diagnosis was made while doctors were addressing
swelling in Trump's legs and bruising on his hand
in recent weeks.
- △ Dr Sean P Barbabella, the physician to the President, said in a memo that Trump had noticed **mild swelling in his lower legs** and underwent a comprehensive evaluation which revealed the condition. He said that Trump had some **bruising on his hand** as well. This **was due to irritation caused by repeated hand-shaking and to the use of aspirin**, which the President *takes as part of his heart health regimen.*
- △ Trump also *had his blood work done* and underwent an *echocardiogram*, Barbabella said. All of the results were within normal limits and revealed **no cardiac, renal or systemic issues.** "President Trump remains in excellent health," he wrote.

What is chronic venous insufficiency?

- △ CVI is a condition that occurs
when veins have trouble moving blood back to the heart.
It occurs **most often in the legs, and can cause swelling,** as Trump experienced.

△ Other symptoms can include

- ☐ varicose veins,
- ☐ pain,
- ☐ discomfort and,

» in rare cases, **venous ulcers, sores**
that take unusually long to heal.

What can lead to chronic venous insufficiency?

△ **Smoking, obesity, and pregnancy** can cause CVI.

- People *who have to stand for long periods of time* on the job are also at greater risk.

△ This is *because veins, particularly in the legs,*

have to pump blood against gravity back up to the heart.

- They use one-way valves and muscles to help them do that.
- But when too much blood pools,

as can happen during prolonged standing,

**the pressure causes veins to dilate
and
the valves can stretch and become leaky,**

causing venous insufficiency.

How is the condition treated?

- △ Doctors typically start with conservative treatments, such as **compression stocking**

to squeeze the legs
and
help blood move back up to the heart.

- △ They also often recommend that patients keep their **legs elevated for at least 30 minutes three times a day**, and sometimes advise patients to lose weight or perform resistance exercises to improve blood flow.

- △ If those measures fail, doctors might try more intensive treatments, such as a procedure called **sclerotherapy**,

which involves
↓
injecting a chemical solution
↓
into the affected veins
↓
to collapse them.

- △ They can also **use heat to seal a vein**, including with laser treatment.
 - The body will then **reroute the blood** through other, healthier veins.

Saving lives in the deep

INS Nistar, commissioned on Friday, and its **sister ship Nipun**, along with their DSRVs, will provide the Navy the niche and critical capability of **conducting deep-sea of trapped submarines**

Ö The Indian Navy on Friday commissioned **INS Nistar** at the Naval Dockyard in **Visakhapatnam**.

Ö **Indigenously** designed and constructed by **Hindustan Shipyard Limited**,

1. Nistar
2. Nipun

Nistar is the first of two **diving support vessels (DSVs)**

that were ordered by the Navy in **2018**.

- Its **sister ship, Nipun**, was launched in **2022**, and is expected to be commissioned in the near future.

Ö Meant to support deep-sea diving and submarine rescue operations, these DSVs will enhance India's operational preparedness in the underwater domain and reinforce the country's strategic maritime posture across the Indian Ocean Region (IOR), the Navy said.

Nistar & its capabilities

Ö **The original** INS Nistar was a **submarine rescue vessel acquired** by the Indian Navy **from the erstwhile Soviet Union** in **1969**, and **commissioned in 1971**.

- It *remained in service till 1989*, during which time it was the centerpiece of the Navy's diving and submarine rescue operations.

- Ö The **new Nistar** will carry forward this legacy. But unlike its predecessor, it **comprises more than 80% indigenous content**, with about 120 MSMEs having participated in its construction. This makes Nistar the first indigenously designed and constructed diving support and submarine rescue vessel in India.
- Ö “Nistar is testimony to the growing capability and maturity of our maritime industrial base, and another shining example of Aatmanirbhar Bharat”.



A LIFELINE FOR SUBMARINES

INS Nistar, India's first indigenous diving support vessel, was commissioned into the Navy in Visakhapatnam on Friday. The ship is designed to undertake complex deep-sea saturation diving and rescue operations. X/@PRO_Vizag

PAGES 6, 14

HOW DEEP-SEA RESCUE OPS WORK



IMAGINE THIS. A submarine malfunctions in the deep. Oxygen is fast running out. Hydrostatic pressure keeps the hatch closed, but even if it were to be opened, no human could survive at those depths. All that the trapped crew can do is wait for help.

INS NISTAR — ‘salvation’ in Sanskrit — is meant for exactly such a situation. It can undertake diving and salvage operations upto 300 m depth, with its DSRV capable of operating 1,000 m under the surface. Here’s how deep sea rescues work.

■ The first task is to locate the submarine in distress, something easier said than done in the deep-sea gloom. *Nistar* will use ROVs, its advanced sonar system, and DSRV.



■ Once the submarine is located, rescuers in the mothership will decide the course of action. If the sub is simply trapped in some underwater debris, ROVs and



(Clockwise from top) *Nistar* at Visakhapatnam port; DSRV being lowered; inside DSRV. *Indian Navy*

DSRV equipped with robotic arms and other equipment can try to free it.

■ But the rescue window is small, and the priority is to save personnel stuck underwater. This is where the DSRV comes in. It can attach to the disabled sub’s hatch, allowing the crew to be evacuated. India’s DSRVs can rescue 14 trapped personnel at a time.

■ *Nistar* is also a dive-support ship, with air diving capabilities for shallower depths, and more complex saturation diving capabilities for greater depths. *Nistar* can support prolonged saturation dives up to 100 metres.



Note :- *This one is for your paving future*

‘Marriage doesn’t grant automatic access to private info’: HC dismisses plea seeking wife’s call records

JAYPRAKASH S NAIDU
RAIPUR, JULY 18

THE CHHATTISGARH High Court has dismissed a petition filed by a man who sought directions to access his wife’s call records, calling it “violation of privacy”.

In his petition before the court, the petitioner claimed that a fortnight after the two married in 2022, his wife’s behaviour “changed drastically” after a visit to her parents’ home and that she had “misbehaved” with his mother and brother.

The man claims that he went to fetch her back in September and October that year but she refused, following which he ap-

proached a lower court for restitution of conjugal rights (including the right to live together, companionship, and sexual relations) under section 9 of the Hindu Marriage Act. A week later, the woman filed a police complaint, and subsequently an application in court.

In January 2024, the man approached the police seeking his estranged wife’s Call Data Record (CDR) and also filed a similar application in the family court saying he suspected her of having an “illicit relationship” with her sister’s husband and “call detail records are necessary to substantiate allegations of adultery”.

When the family court dismissed the petition, he ap-

proached the high court, which said there was no allegation of adultery in the divorce petition and that accessing her call records would be a violation of the respondent’s right to privacy.

Now coming to the facts of the present case, it is evident that there is no allegation of adultery in the petition filed by the petitioner for the dissolution of marriage. Such allegations have been made for the first time in the written arguments. Moreover, in the application moved by the petitioner seeking call detail records, no allegations were made with regard to adultery, the court said in its recent order.

Marriage did not grant the husband “automatic access to the

wife’s private information, communications and personal belongings”. “The husband cannot compel the wife to share her passwords of the cell phone or bank account and such an act would amount to a violation of privacy and potentially domestic violence. There should be a balance between marital privacy and the need for transparency and at the same time trust in the relationship,” the court said.

The right to privacy, the Bench said, “encompasses the preservation of personal intimacies, the sanctity of family life, marriage, procreation, the home, and sexual orientation. Any intrusion would amount to a violation of the fundamental rights of the individual”.

20.07.2025

China begins construction of world's biggest dam over Brahmaputra in Tibet

The ceremony took place at the dam site of Nyingchi's Mainling hydropower station in **Tibet Autonomous Region**, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

- Ö China on Saturday formally started the construction of the USD 167.8 billion dam over the Brahmaputra river in Tibet, ***closer to the Indian border in Arunachal Pradesh.***
- Ö The hydropower project, regarded as the biggest infrastructure project in the world, *raised concerns in the lower riparian countries, India and Bangladesh.*
- Ö The project *will consist of five cascade hydropower stations*, with a total investment estimated at around 1.2 trillion Yuan (about USD 167.8 billion), the report said.
- Ö According to a 2023 report, the hydropower station is expected to generate more than 300 billion kWh of *electricity each year – enough to meet the annual needs of over 300 million people.*
 - It will *primarily deliver electricity for external consumption while also addressing local demand in Tibet*, which China officially refers to as Xizang.
- Ö The project was approved in December last year.

- Ö The dam is to be built at a huge gorge in the Himalayan reaches
where the **Brahmaputra river makes a huge U-turn**
to flow into Arunachal Pradesh
and
then to Bangladesh.



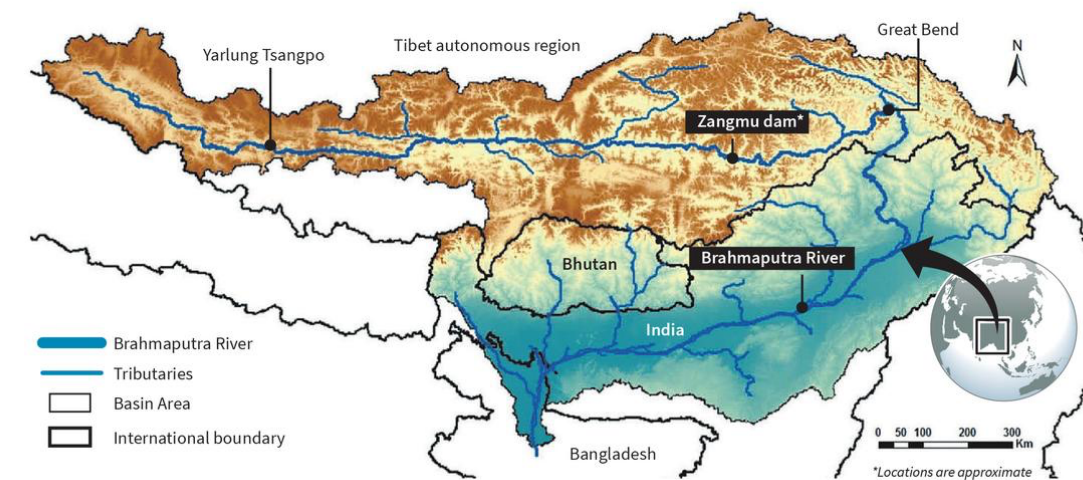
- Ö According to earlier reports,
the size of the project would dwarf
any other single infrastructure project on the planet,

including China's own **Three Gorges dam**,
regarded as the **largest in the world.**

China has already operationalised USD 1.5 billion
Zam Hydropower Station, the **largest in Tibet**, in 2015,
which raised concerns in India.

Taming the 'rogue' river

The Brahmaputra is a transboundary Himalayan river basin spanning four riparian countries. This map shows its flow from the Tibetan Autonomous Region in China through Bhutan and India into Bangladesh.



Power play:
Zangmu was the first hydropower project on China's Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo) to become operational, in 2014.
PICTURE: TWITTER

Source: Non-decisions are also decisions: power interplay between Bangladesh and India over the Brahmaputra River (DOI: 10.1080/02508060.2018.1554767)

India and China

△ Concerns arose in India

as the dam besides empowering China to control the water flow, the size and scale of it could also enable Beijing to release large amounts of water flooding border areas in times of hostilities.

△ India too is building a dam over Brahmaputra in Arunachal Pradesh.

△ India and China established the **Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) in 2006** to discuss various issues related to trans-border rivers

under which China provides India with hydrological information on the Brahmaputra river and Sutlej river during the flood seasons.

- Data sharing of trans-border rivers figured in the talks between India, China Special Representatives for border question, held here on December 18, 2024.

(Reference:- 1st January - 4th February, 2025 issue

Pg No:- 11-13)

22.07.2025

2006 SERIAL BLASTS IN MUMBAI LOCAL TRAINS KILLED 189; CM FADNAVIS SAYS WILL APPEAL IN SUPREME COURT

7/11 Mumbai train terror: High Court acquits all 12 facing death and life; eight walk free

“Creating false appearance of having solved a case gives a misleading sense of resolution... this deceptive closure undermines public trust: Bombay HC”

JUSTICE DENIED

There is no closure, only unanswered questions,
in 2006 Mumbai blasts case

△ **Case Brief**

Nineteen Years Ago, *sophisticated bombs ripped through seven local trains in Mumbai within 11 minutes*. They **killed 189 people, and injured 816.**

- *In less than three months*, the Anti-Terrorism Squad of Maharashtra Police arrested 13 individuals, named another 15 in hiding as accused, and *claimed to have cracked the case*.
- Stringent anti-terror laws, **from the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act to the Maharashtra Control of organised**

Crime Act, were invoked, and *the investigators claimed the accused had confessed to their crimes.*

- They were subsequently tried and awarded **sentences of life imprisonment and the death penalty in 2015.**

- On Monday, the Bombay High Court acquitted 12 men, **highlighting critical procedural lapses in the investigation**. The 617-page verdict raises important questions about how an investigation in a case that shook the nation is riddled with worrying loose ends and gaps.

~ Justice Anil S Kilar begins with a disquieting assessment of the case:

“Punishing the actual perpetrator a crime is a concrete and essential step toward curbing criminal activities, upholding the rule of law, and ensuring the safety and security of citizens. But creating a false appearance of having solved a case by presenting that the accused have been brought to justice gives a misleading sense of resolution. This deceptive closure undermines public trust and falsely reassures society, while in reality, the true threat remains at large”.

△ The High Court ruling points to

a series of serious lapses in the investigation,

- » from picking and choosing eyewitnesses,
- » reliance on maps allegedly recovered from the accused, and
- » how confessional statements were obtained.

- The court notes the **serious allegations and medical evidence of custodial torture of the accused.**

- The ruling shows that **even the basic element of the case the nature of the bombs used – was not established with cogent evidence by the prosecution.**

- **The state did not have adequate reasons or material evidence, the court held, to grant sanction to prosecute the accused under MCOCA.**

- ~ This is a crucial step in the process when stringent anti-terror laws are invoked.
- ~ These are laws enacted with the stated goal of combating terror threats that give the state wide powers.
- ~ *They*
 - reverse the burden of proof,
 - allow prolonged detention and powers of invasive surveillance, and
 - relax evidentiary standards.
- ~ It is worrying that Maharashtra Police could not establish the case even to this standard. “**The prosecution has utterly failed to establish the offence beyond a reasonable doubt** against the accused on each count, it is unsafe to reach the satisfaction that the Appellants/Accused have committed the offences for which they have been convicted and sentenced,” the court said.

△ Strict anti-terror laws provide a legal framework for the state. **But rigorous and fair investigations are crucial for their effectiveness and legitimacy.** It is true that there is immense pressure on the state when a gruesome attack, such as this one, is perpetrated on the people. But that makes it even more important that it holds itself to high standards of investigation. **Botched investigations and trials that span decades do an added injustice to the victims.** The state has a right to appeal the verdict before the Supreme Court, where the final word lies. For now, 19 years later, there is no closure for families of the victims.

HAD TOLD HOUSE HE RECEIVED MOTION FOR REMOVAL OF JUSTICE VARMA

Flutter in Delhi as V-P Dhankhar quits on Day 1 of Monsoon Session, 2 years of his term left

Critical Dhankhar

☞ Parliament

He is the **only V-P against whom** the Opposition took the **unprecedented step of bringing a no-confidence motion**, accusing him of “**partisan conduct**” and of being a “**spokesperson**” for the government.

☞ Judiciary

He has made it a habit to take on the judiciary in ways that are seen to undermine the principle of separation of powers –

- ~ be it his criticism of the SC ruling on the NJAC,
 - ~ his making a case for overriding the “**basic structure**” doctrine and advocacy of **Parliament’s sovereignty**, or
 - ~ most recently, in the context of **cash being found at a judge’s residence**, the Court’s alleged lack of accountability.
- ☐ On some of these issues, especially the black box that judicial accountability seems to be locked up in, he surely hit many a nail on its head.

23.07.2025

Why RS may not see a new Chairman before Monsoon Session ends

Vice-Presidential Election

- § While the law **does not prescribe a deadline**
for holding vice-presidential elections –

↓
unlike **presidential** polls,
which must be held **within 6 months of a vacancy** –

↓
it is unlikely that anew Vice-President will be in place
before the Monsoon Session ends.

- § This is because, under the
Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1974

↓
the Election Commission is *bound by a* **30 to 32-day** *statutory timeline*
once it notifies the election schedule.

- § Calculation of the minimum 32 days window

The law allows

- **14 days** for **filing nominations** by candidates,
 - followed by **1 day** for **scrutiny** and
 - a **2 days** window for **withdrawal** of candidates.
- If a poll is required,
it must be held **no earlier than 15 days after the withdrawal
deadline** – making it at last 32 days from notification to result.

§ The Commission typically **takes about 2 to 3 weeks before issuing the election notification** – a public notice inviting nominations and specifying the place for submission of nomination papers – to prepare for the electoral process.

- This preparatory period includes
 - updating the electoral college list – comprising all Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha members – and
 - printing ballot papers with counterfoils, in formats and languages approved by the EC.
 - The names of candidates must appear in the same order as in the final list of contesting candidates, as per Rule 6 of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974.

Himachal tribal woman marries 2 brothers: What the law says on polyandry?

Ö In news:-

Customary law is legal in India if not outlawed

The trance-Giri region in Himachal Pradesh witnessed a centuries-old customary practice recently, when a woman, married two brothers.

- » This polyandrous tradition is locally known as ‘**Jodidaran**’.
- » The **Hatti tribe** has seen five such marriages in the past six years.

‡ Notably, the community was granted the status of Scheduled Tribes (STs) by the Centre in **2022**.

Ö Why does polyandry in practice?

- Their practice of polyandry **has roots** in the desire to preserve undivided family land, particularly agricultural land.

- According to supporters of the tradition, it has also served as a means to **reinforce familial bonds between brothers** and provided **more security to women**.

Is polyandry legal in India? - YES

△ Polyandry and polygamy **are outlawed by** the Special Marriages Act, the Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 and *criminalised* under the *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita*.

- While religious personal laws specifically govern marriage, **the Constitution also recognises** the relevance of prevailing customary laws among STs.

△ The Constitution, under **Article 342**, **recognises STs and accords them a distinct legal status**.

- The **Hindu Marriage Act, 1955**, governs marriage applicable to **Hindus, Buddhists, Jains and Sikhs**.
 - Section 2(2) of the Act includes a carve-out stating that its **provisions do not apply to STs** “unless the Central Government, by notification in the Official Gazette, otherwise directs.”
 - In the absence of such a notification, the Hattis continue to be governed by laws laid down under their customs, which are undocumented and uncodified.
 - The Act defines “custom” under Section 3 as a rule that has been “observed for a long time, has obtained the force of law.” But for a customary law to be valid, it must also hold the standard of certainty, reasonableness, and consistency with public policy. When challenged, these laws do not automatically gain legal recognition; courts have to be provided with proper evidence that such customary laws prevail.
- The **UCC, Uttarakhand, 2025** mandates the registration of marriage, establishes equal rights of spouses across religions and communities and prohibits polygamy. **However, it does not apply to**

STs, following a Constitutional pattern of upholding their customary practices.

What has the court said on the issue?

Increasingly, courts have read customary laws prevalent among STs with the rights to equality, dignity and life and liberty as enshrined under the Constitution. Any law that is in conflict with fundamental rights is struck down as unconstitutional.

- » For example, the Supreme Court declared the practice of **triple talaq** as customary and therefore unconstitutional under the Muslim Personal Law (Shariat) Application Act, 1937.
 - It was deemed arbitrary, unreasonable and violative of Article 14 and 21 of the Constitution, which guarantees the right to equality, dignity and the right to life.
- » Similarly, in **2018**, the SC ruled that the customary practice of prohibiting women of menstruating age from entering the Sabrimala temple in Kerala was **unconstitutional**.
 - The apex court held that this restriction violated the fundamental rights of women, including the right to equality and the freedom of religion under **Articles 14,15 and 21** of the Constitution.
- » On July 17, **2025** the SC in Ram Charan & Ors. Versus Sukhram & Ors, a case related to **succession rights for tribal women**, reaffirmed this principle.
 - It held that when a custom is silent on inheritance, there is no restriction in law that women should be prevented from inheriting ancestral property.
 - The apex court observed that “customs too, like the law, cannot remain stuck in time and others cannot be allowed to take refuge in customs or hide behind them to deprive others of their right.”
 - The ruling affirmed that excluding female heirs solely based on customary male preferences violates Article 14 of the Constitution.

24.07.2025

SETS STAGE FOR SR TALKS

After 5-yr gap, India resumes tourist visas for Chinese; border meeting held too

Expressed satisfaction with peace, tranquility in border areas, says MEA

India had suspended issuance of tourist visas to Chinese nationals in 2020, in the wake of the Covid pandemic, but the restrictions continued in view of the military standoff along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh that began in May 2020.

EXPLAINED

E Towards normal ties

THE LATEST move is part of a series of confidence-building measures that the two countries have been taking in recent months. Besides resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, the two sides have also said that direct flights will restart soon. The de-escalation of troops on the LAC remains on the agenda.

Vaccine hope in malaria fight

Nearly 400,000 people worldwide succumb to malaria each year. For decades, scientists have struggled to develop a vaccine. ICMR has now made what could potentially be a game-changing breakthrough

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has announced a promising candidate vaccine for malaria, which it will now further develop, test and manufacture for commercial purposes in partnership with private companies.

- Known as **AdFalciVax**,

the vaccine mainly targets two parts of Plasmodium falciparum, a pathogen that is the **most common source of malaria** in humans.

In India,

however, the disease is caused by

Plasmodium vivax

against which AdFalciVax is ineffective.

Why is this development significant?

- ✧ Malaria is a parasitic infection

transmitted by mosquitoes,

typically causing symptoms such as

fever, chills, night sweats,
nausea, vomiting, and
diarrhoea.

- In some cases, it can lead to severe complications such as

seizures, fluid in the lungs, organ damage and death.

Σ Having claimed millions of lives, *malaria has been one of the deadliest diseases in human history*.

- Currently, the disease **kills about 4 lakh people annually**, according to World Health Organization (WHO) figures.

Σ Malaria is **most endemic in Africa** —

- ~ Nigeria,
- ~ Congo,
- ~ Tanzania,
- ~ Mozambique,
- ~ Niger, and
- ~ Burkina Faso

→ together account for more than half the yearly deaths.

Σ The disease is also present **in India**, although malaria deaths have **sharply reduced** in the country in recent years.

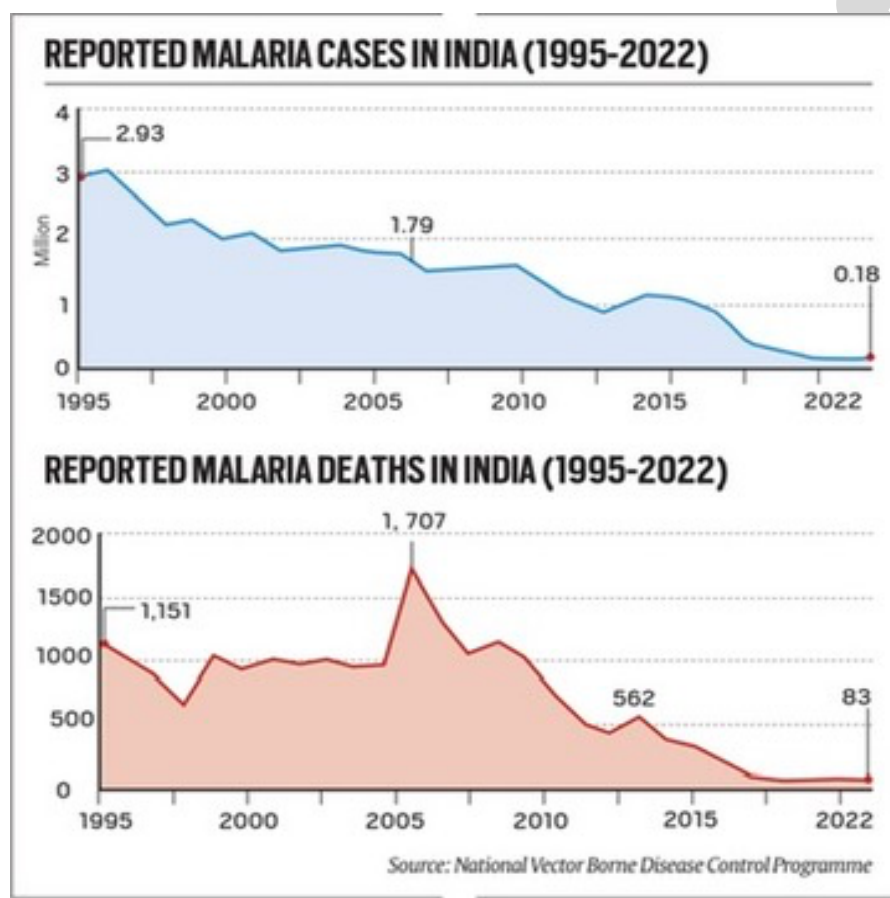
- According to the *National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP)*, reported

Malaria deaths in India	
1995	1,151
2020	93
2022	83

Discrepancy regarding Death Numbers:-

Note that these figures are much lower than the numbers provided annually by the WHO.

WHO's report	NVBDCP	
5,511 deaths (World Malaria Report)	83 deaths	
WHO providing estimates	NVBDCP providing only the number of confirmed deaths,	which may not have been officially reported.



BREAKING THE CHAIN

ICMR's push for TB diagnostic tests in primary healthcare centres could be crucial for early detection and treatment of infection

Ö With the aim of making clinical testing for a wider range of diseases more accessible,

the Indian Council of Medical Research (**ICMR**)

has updated its **National List of Essential Diagnostics**

to include rapid diagnostic tests for

sickle cell anaemia,
thalassaemia,

Hepatitis B

syphilis

, among others.

Ö Significantly, *there is a push* **for early detection of tuberculosis (TB)**

at the lower levels of the healthcare system –

Sub Health Centre (SHC)	the list recommends collecting samples at the level of the sub health centre (SHC)
	for molecular TB testing
	in order <u>to identify asymptomatic individuals</u> ,
Community Healthcare Centres (CHC)	as well as the <u>TB skin test</u> in community healthcare centres,
	to detect the presence of the pathogen in those without an active infection.

- Ö WHO data shows that since 2015,
India has made good progress in tackling TB.

There has been

a 17 % drop in the number of reported cases and
a 20 % drop in the number of deaths .

More than 85 % of those detected with the infection have received treatment and
efforts to contain multi-drug-resistant TB <u>are yielding results.</u>

Challenges for India : proper tracking

- > It is evident that the TB problem is not intractable, but given **India's massive disease burden, accounting for 27% of the global cases**, there is no room for complacency.
 - The challenge is compounded by the **problem of subclinical TB**, where infected individuals do not yet present symptoms like persistent coughing.
- > A study published in The International Journal of Tuberculosis and Lung Disease in 2024 found that
 - **39% of TB cases in India are subclinical**, and therefore more likely to escape detection and continue spreading.
 - ~ This is why the attempt to tackle TB as early as possible matters.

Remedy : exercised

- > The ICMR's update,

making molecular TB testing available at the level of the community health centre (CHC)	– with sub-centres and primary healthcare centres (PHCs) also sending samples to be tested
---	--

– could be crucial to providing

timely treatment

and

breaking the chain of transmission.

Remedy : to be exercised

- > Despite making significant progress, *India is unlikely to meet its target of eliminating TB by the end of the year.*
 - > The *government has made the expansion of primary healthcare* a key pillar of its policy, with the aim of bringing a broad spectrum of services closer to the people through the network of over 1.7 lakh centres around the country.
 - > *The broadening of the TB diagnostics must be factored in*, equipping SHCs and PHCs to identify and treat infected individuals as early as possible, even as initiatives to reduce the financial burden of treatment and improve access to nutrition are strengthened.
-

'STATE OF THE ECONOMY' ARTICLE PUBLISHED IN THE RBI'S JULY BULLETIN

Indian economy remains largely resilient despite global uncertainties: RBI article

EXPLAINED

E Average tariff set to touch levels last seen in 1930s

THE AVERAGE trade tariff rates are set to touch levels unseen since the 1930s. Moreover, risk of imposition of new high tariffs looms large for additional sectors, according to the article. The evolving pattern of global trade flows and supply chains are far from settled, and these uncertainties pose considerable headwinds to global economic prospects.

25.07.2025

PM MODI: NATURAL PARTNERS,
writing a new chapter in history

PM STARMER: LANDMARK DEAL,
delivery of commitment by both sides

GOYAL: MILESTONE IN TRADE
ties, setting an ambitious framework

India-UK: Deal's Done

Modi: Pact beneficial for India's youth, farmers, fishermen and MSME sector

India gains big in food, footwear, textile; to cut tariffs in auto, liquor

DOUBLE CONTRIBUTIONS CONVENTION

Relief on social security contributions boost for Indian firms, workers

INDIA-UK COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC AND TRADE AGREEMENT

Scotch imports into India set to get cheaper with tariffs halved to 75%

A FEW WHISKY WORDS

SCOTCH WHISKY is defined as “a spirit distilled in Scotland from water and malted barley (to which only whole grains of other cereals may be added), fermented by the action of yeast and matured for at least three years in oak casks in Scotland”, by the Scotch Whisky Regulations, 2009.

THE AGE statement on a bottle of Scotch refers to the youngest whisky in the blend or batch. A bottle with no age statement has been matured for three years.

SINGLE MALTS are made exclusively of malted barley, and are produced at a single distillery using pot stills.

SINGLE GRAIN Scotch is made from a mixture of malted barley and other grains such as corn or wheat, and distilled at a single distillery using continuous column stills.

BLENDED SCOTCH is a combination of single malt whisky and single grain whisky from different distilleries. This is the most sold Scotch whisky.

EXPLAINED

E Tariffs to be cut to 75% now & to 40% over ten years

INDIA WILL immediately cut tariffs by half to 75%, and then to 40% over ten years. The reduction will benefit British scotch brands including Chivas Regal, Ballantine's, Glenlivet, Glenfiddich, and Johnnie Walker. The deal does not include minimum import price rules for scotch earlier recommended by India's alcoholic beverage industry, which has flagged concerns over potential dumping.

INDIA'S GAIN

■ Old tariff ■ New tariff



TEXTILES

Up to 12% Zero



TEA & COFFEE

Up to 10% Zero

Temporary workers exempt from UK social security payments

UK'S GAIN



SCOTCH

150% 75%*

*75% immediately and 40% after 10 years



CARS

70-110% 10*

*After 10 yrs up to a certain limit

British firms can now bid for tenders

India-UK trade pact

— a template for deals with America and Europe

Through this trade agreement, India has indicated its willingness to bring down its tariffs substantially as it seeks to integrate more closely with developed countries

△ On Thursday, India and the UK signed the **Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA)** that has been many years in the making. Leaders of both countries exuded confidence that the agreement would open up markets and bring enormous benefits to their countries.

- The **goal is to double bilateral trade** between the nations from roughly \$56 billion now.
- The signing of the deal was accompanied by the unveiling of the **UK-India Vision 2035** — which envisages greater engagement in areas such as

→ defence,

→ tech and

→ education, indicating a desire to deepen the relationship between the two countries.

△ Through this trade agreement, said to be one of the most comprehensive deals that Delhi has entered into, India has indicated its willingness to bring down its tariffs substantially as it seeks to integrate more closely with developed countries and encourage more investment into the country.

- Delhi's high tariff walls have been criticised by others, including the US.

↳ The Office of the United States Trade Representative had recently noted that **India's average applied tariff rate was 17%**, while that **on agricultural products** was even higher at **39%**.

UK	India	
As per reports, <u>under this new deal</u>, the average tariffs on British products will fall from 15% to 3%, which could potentially lead to a large increase in UK exports.	On the other hand, the agreement paves the way for “unprecedented duty free access for 99% of India’s exports to the UK”, covering almost the entire trade basket.	
	This includes labour intensive segments such as → <u>textiles</u>, → <u>leather</u>, → <u>footwear</u> → <u>gems and jewellery</u>, as well as sectors like → <u>engineering goods</u> → <u>auto components</u>.	
	Alongside, India has secured significant <u>commitments on services and labour mobility</u>.	
	The agreement increases market access in critical areas such as → IT and IT-enabled services as well as ○ <u>financial</u>, ○ <u>legal</u>, ○ <u>professional and</u> ○ <u>educational services</u>.	
	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>The double contribution convention agreement will help</td><td>Indian professionals and their employers</td></tr> </table>	The double contribution convention agreement will help
The double contribution convention agreement will help	Indian professionals and their employers	

		avoid making social security payments in the UK, thereby bringing down the costs of doing business.
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Scotch whisky : Highland, Lowland

Highland		Lowland	
Single Malt Whisky	In the northern Highlands, <u>where enforcement of duties was lax, an illicit whisky economy thrived.</u> The whiskey here remained truer to its origins – malted barley, often peated, was the grain of choice, which gave Highland whiskies their distinctive bold and smoky flavours.	Blended Whisky	Lowland distillers, on the other hand, had no option but to pay the duties. This led to them experimenting with grains other than barley, since by the 18th century, duties primarily targeted the raw material rather than the finished product. Unlike Highland “single malts”, Lowland whiskies often comprise a mix of grains including wheat and corn.

26.07.2025

WILL WORK TO CONVINCE OTHERS TO FOLLOW SUIT: MACRON

France to recognise Palestinian state, draws fire from Tel Aviv, Washington

EXPLAINED

E Who else?
And who
● next?

At least 144 of the 193 United Nations member states recognise Palestine as a state, including most of the global south as well as Russia, China and India. But only a handful of the European Union members do so. France's decision may put pressure on major countries like Britain, Germany, Australia, Canada and Japan to take the same path. In the immediate term, Malta and Belgium are expected to be the next countries within the European Union to do so.

1 in 3 US smartphone imports now made in India, China's lead shrinks

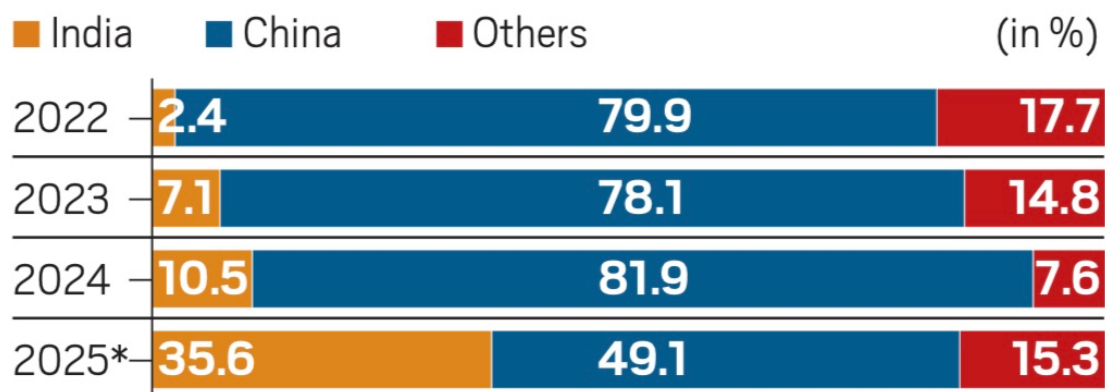
- △ India's growing share – now 1 in 3, **driven largely by Apple iPhones** – comes amid ongoing trade talks with the US.
 - While smartphones are India's top export to the US **by value**, President Donald Trump has threatened a 25 % tariff on Indian-made iPhones.
- △ US smartphone imports from India **jumped by over three times year-on-year** to 21.3 million units **between January and May** this year.
- △ In May, Apple CEO Tim Cook had said the company expects most iPhones sold in the US in the April-June quarter to have India as their country of origin. **Roughly 20% of Apple's global iPhone production capacity is now based in India.**
- △ Apple doubled down on production in India in 2020, after the government announced its flagship Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme to support smartphone manufacturing in the country.
- △ While it started by making some of its older iPhones in India, Apple today **produces all model**, including the **higher-end Pro range**, in the country.
- ‡ **Apple's pivot to India from China** for US-bound exports has drawn criticism from Trump.
- > However, Apple is unlikely to overhaul its India expansion plans in the near term.
 - In May, its contract manufacturer **Foxconn** informed the **new plant** is to come up in **Tamil Nadu**, where Foxconn already has a major iPhone production base.

Challenges : Supplier List

There are some challenges though.

Of Apple's latest official supplier list, in 2023,			
<i>China</i>	as many as 157 of the company's various vendors and suppliers manufactured in mainland China, up <u>from 151</u> the previous year.	<i>India</i>	The number of Indian suppliers <u>was 14</u> . People in the know say that number has now risen to 64 , marking a slow but steady shift of Apple's supplier base to India.

SHARE IN U.S. SMARTPHONE IMPORTS



*2025 data from Jan to May; Source: US International Trade Commission data

Iran hold n-talks with E-3 countries over UN sanctions

Sanctions to resume by Aug if no results

E3 nations	1) Britain 2) France 3) Germany
------------	---------------------------------------

- △ Talks between Iranian and European diplomats in Istanbul ended Friday (25th July) with the sides agreeing to meet again to seek to unpick the deadlock over Tehran's nuclear programme.
- △ Representatives from Britain, France and Germany, known as the E3 nations, gathered at the Iranian Consulate building for the first talks since Iran's 12-day war with Israel in June, which involved US bombers striking nuclear-related facilities.
- △ The talks, which ended after four hours, centered on the possibility of reimposing sanctions on Iran that were lifted in 2015 in exchange for Iran accepting restrictions and monitoring of its nuclear programme.
- > Iranian negotiator, Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi, said the "serious, frank and detailed" meeting focused on the nuclear issue and the status of sanctions while agreeing to further discussions.
- △ The E3 nations had earlier warned that
 - sanctions could return under a process known as the "snapback mechanism,"
 - which allows one of the Western parties to reimpose UN sanctions
 - if Tehran doesn't comply with its requirements.**

△ **European leaders have said sanctions will resume by the end of August, if there is no progress on containing Iran's nuclear programme.** The snapback mechanism “remains on the table,” a European diplomat said on condition of anonymity.

△ Tehran, meanwhile, has said that **Washington, which withdrew from the 2015 deal** during the first term of US President Donald Trump **(2018),** **needs to rebuild faith in its role in negotiations.**

○ Gharibabadi previously said Iran's engagement was dependent on “**several key principles**” that included “**rebuilding Iran's trust** – **as Iran has absolutely no trust in the United States.**”

27.07.2025

K-shaped market: Small cars in slow lane as first-time buyers seek premium SUVs

First-time buyers

In Creta's case, it is both, with monthly income ranging from **Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh.**

Entry level problem

- The entry-level car segment is in a bad shape, primarily due to two factors:
 - 1) **higher price tag of Rs 4 lakh-plus** due to better safety norms including six airbags, and sluggish income growth in the lower end of consumer base.
 - 2) The bigger problem is that an **entry-level car costs nearly four times the prices of a scooter or motorcycle.**

EXPLAINED

E

**Mixed
signals**

OVER THE past decade, sales of small cars have steadily declined, and in recent years, more and more consumers are opting for the more expensive mid-segment cars. This could reflect rising aspirations of first-time buyers, but also erosion of purchasing power at the lower end of the consumer pyramid. Car companies are figuring it out.



Lesson :- Means are afterall everything

BJP's INGRATITUDE

Ö The NDA government owed a lot to Mr Dhankhar. In American football parlance, he took upon himself the role of 'tackle'.

→ He defended the RSS/BJP's position on One Nation, One Election (ONOE) and

- on the removal of the words 'secular' and 'socialist' from the Preamble to the Constitution.

→ He criticised the Supreme Court for its judgement propounding the Basic Structure doctrine (Kesavananda Bharati case).

- He questioned the theory of judicial review of laws passed by Parliament.
- He asserted the right of the government to appoint judges to the Supreme Court and the High Courts, debunking the proposition that the judiciary has primacy in such appointments (Second Judge case).
- He slammed the Supreme Court for invoking Article 142 to direct governors (and the President) to grant or refuse assent to Bills within 3 months.

→ Contradicting Article 105, Mr Dhankhar asked members to 'authenticate' documents or data cited in their speeches.

✍ He defended sanatana dharma.

✍ He heaped fulsome praise on the RSS.

✍ His positions mirrored the conservative Right's views, and ought to have pleased the BJP.

UPSC lens view

Article 105 of the Indian Constitution deals with the powers, privileges, and immunities of the Houses of Parliament and their members.

It essentially grants freedom of speech within Parliament and immunity from legal action for anything said or any vote given in Parliament or its committees.

This ensures that members can freely express their views without fear of being sued or prosecuted in court

28.07.2025

Essay Perspective:-

CARRY IT FORWARD

India-UK trade pact is marked by a confident approach of export proactiveness rather than import defensiveness

☞ Now that the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (**CETA**) has been sealed, the focus shifts to the more challenging deal with the US. A major stumbling block to inking an interim free trade agreement before US President Donald Trump's August 1 deadline — to either sign or face so-called reciprocal tariffs of up to 26 per cent — is agriculture. India does not want to open up its market for American soybean, corn (maize), ethanol and dairy products. What this defensive stance misses is the potential loss from the fact that India's agricultural exports to the US, at \$6.2 billion in 2024, exceeded its

imports of \$2.4 billion. A 26 per cent tariff will definitely hurt Indian seafood exports to the US that alone was valued at \$2.5 billion. That loss would be a gain for the likes of Ecuador and Chile, slapped with only the 10 per cent baseline tariff.

- ✧ On the other hand, the fear of US farm imports is more about perception than reality. Take dairy, where the US isn't as big an exporter of milk powder, butter and cheese as New Zealand and the European Union. Or soybean, where India imported over \$5 billion worth of its oil during 2024-25. The bulk of that was from Argentina and Brazil, with the US share at just \$126.3 million. The US is, no doubt, cost competitive in corn and the world's biggest producer as well as exporter. But corn is basically a feed grain, also increasingly being used as a biofuel feedstock. Allowing imports would benefit India's dairy and poultry farmers grappling with rising feed costs, aggravated by the diversion of corn for fuel ethanol production. The sheer demand growth makes corn imports by India inevitable, whether from the US or elsewhere.
 - ✧ India needs a farm trade policy based not on import protection, but expanding and diversifying its exports. That happened during 2003-04 to 2013-14, when the country's agriculture exports soared from \$7.5 billion to \$43.3 billion and new markets were created in products from basmati rice and buffalo meat to frozen shrimps, guar gum meal, chilly and seed spices. Since then, exports have hardly grown to about \$52 billion in 2024-25. Even worse have been shipment curbs — on rice, wheat, sugar or onion — clamped at the slightest indication of domestic supply shortfalls. CETA has been a refreshing departure, with India successfully negotiating duty-free access for its exports of seafood, processed foods, spices, fruit and vegetables to the UK, while simultaneously offering to cut tariffs on imports of whisky, chocolates, soft drinks and salmon from the latter. A similar confident approach of export proactiveness rather than import defensiveness is required in deals with other countries — the US included.
-

29.07.2025

Essay Perspective:-

MALE OUTREACH

PM Modi's visit to the Maldives marks a significant turnaround in bilateral relations after a period of strain

When President Mohamed Muizzu, riding the “India Out” campaign, rose to power in the Maldives in September 2023, he signaled a clear intent to politically distance Male from New Delhi. His January 2024 visit to China and his call for India to withdraw troops from the Maldives Complicated ties with India. In this context, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent visit to the island nation to attend its Independence Day celebration, during which several economic agreements were signed and projects inaugurated, marks a significant turnaround in bilateral relations after a period of strain.

The Maldives is a key pillar of Indian's “Neighbourhood First” policy. Beyond deep-rooted cultural ties and a history of friendly relations – India was among the first to establish diplomatic ties following that country's independence in 1965 – its sits atop critical sea lanes in the Indian Ocean, through which a major share of global trade and Indian's energy imports pass. It is an integral part of India's maritime security architecture. India provides economic support and assistance to the Maldives in infrastructure and healthcare. Tourism, which accounts for nearly a third of the Maldivian economy, saw Indians as the largest group of visitors for several consecutive years up to 2023. This trend was disrupted I 2024, after derogatory remarks by three Maldivian junior ministers (suspended subsequently) triggered a diplomatic row and led to a sharp decline in Indian tourist arrivals. In a bid to reverse this, President Muizzu, speaking to reporters over the weekend, acknowledged that “Indian is one of the major countries that helps the Maldives with tourism. With PM Modi's visit, it is going to increase a lot”.

Apart from meeting senior government officials, PM Modi also held separate interactions with the main Opposition party and leaders from across the political spectrum in the Maldives. These engagements reflect New Delhi's effort to insulate bilateral relations from the ebb and flow of politics between and within both countries. On the China question, it would be unrealistic to expect Male to avoid doing business with Beijing. As the world's second-largest economy, China

presents significant opportunities for the Maldives, and the letter is entitled during to make its own choices. Talk to loan restructuring with China, however, initiated during President Muizzu's state visit in January 2024, have seen little progress so far. As a key neighbour and regional power, India can counterbalance Beijing's influence by making better offers – especially given that Maldives's external debt burden has worsened as a result of China's lending practices. New Delhi, therefore, should keep using its leverage to further its interests and maintain close relations, while keeping a watchful eye on Male's political environment.

Chess World Cup (Women), 2025 [Georgia]

Divya Deshmukh (19 years)		beats	Koneru Humpy (38 years)	
Currently FIDE rank :	18		Currently FIDE rank :	5

Total Indian Grandmaster till date - 88

4 Indian Grandmaster (Women)			
1) Koneru Humpy	2) Harika Dronavalli	3) Vaishali Rameshbabu	4) Divya Deshmukh (88th)

□ **India's First Chess Grandmaster :-** **Viswanathan Anand**
(1988)

□ **India's World Chess Champion :-**

- 1) Viswanathan Anand (5 times, first @ 2000)
- 2) Gukesh D (2024 , youngest ever @ world)

30.07.2025

NISAR's two eyes on Earth

NISAR, launching today, has been jointly built by ISRO and NASA. It will be the most powerful of all Earth observation satellites, its two synthetic aperture radars operating in tandem in different frequency bands

- Countries routinely deploy Earth observation satellites in space for various purposes. But the satellite that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch on Wednesday is anything but routine.
- **NISAR (NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar)**, built jointly by ISRO and the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration, *has been in development for more than a decade.*
- *At more than \$1 billion,* **NISAR is the most expensive satellite ever built.**

→ It is also the **first satellite** → equipped with

two synthetic aperture radars (SARs),

operating in different frequency bands,

which will make it the **most powerful**
Earth observation satellite ever,

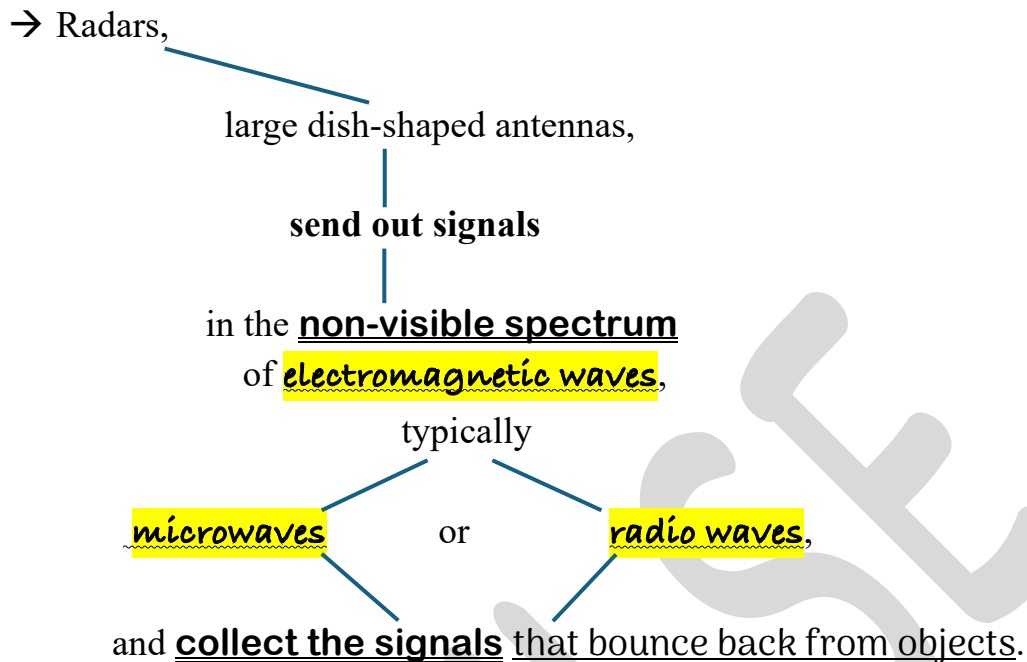
producing data

and

high-resolution images

that will facilitate research in a range of fields.

What are SARs?



- The returning signals are analysed to obtain information such as the distance of the object from the radar, its velocity (if it is moving), composition, and texture. Larger antennas are usually able to collect more information.
- A SAR is a special kind of imaging radar that is deployed in space where large dish-like radars cannot be sent. SARs use sophisticated technologies and algorithms to mimic the power and resolution of large ground-based radars.
- NISAR's antenna, which is 12 metres in diameter, can produce images whose resolution would be comparable to those generated by a simple ground-based antenna of 20-km diameter, according to NASA.
- A number of SAR-mounted satellites are currently deployed in space, but none of them have two SARs.
 - ↳ ISRO's RISAT (Radar Imaging Satellites) series of satellites – now renamed to the EOS series – carry a SAR.
 - ↳ Some of ISRO's other Earth observation satellites such as Cartosat and Oceansat do not use SARs.

What is the benefit of using SARs that operate in different frequency bands?

One of NISAR's SARs operates in L-band frequency ,	the other in the S-band .	
They are designed to		
capture complementary sets of images	for the same location at the same time,	providing a detailed view of the earth.

Both the L-band and S-band radars			
can see through clouds, smoke, rain, and fog	for an unfiltered view of the planet	across all weathers,	and through day and night.

The different wavelengths <i>of the radars</i> will enable them to capture different kinds of details on the surface.			
The L-band SAR,	which uses higher wavelength microwaves, can better penetrate tree cover or vegetation, sand, and ice. it will capture <i>minute details of surface undulation, and see through dense forest cover.</i> <i>for example, to map the ground below and</i>	The S-band SAR,	which has a shorter wave length, cannot go very deep, but is good for capturing larger features such as crop fields and water bodies. <i>It can observe crops like soybean, corn, and sugarcane, and provide information on their growth and maturity stages.</i>

	<i>measure tree trunk biomass, which is useful for estimating carbon stock.</i>		
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- Integrated data from one Satellite with both bands:-
 As the **L-band and S-band SARs will work together**, they will give a comprehensive picture of the observed area – **generating imagery of the kind that is not possible by integrating data from S-band and L-band SARs on two separate satellites.**
 - These satellites would not be able to look at the same place at the same time, and any changes that occur between their observations would be missed.

- Integration of both bands – an engineering challenge:-
Putting two SARs on the same satellite was a major engineering challenge, which was the main reason for the extended time that was needed to get NISAR ready.
 - **Each of the two radars requires its specific hardware,** and integrating their signal processing capabilities without one of them interfering with the other needed sophisticated engineering.

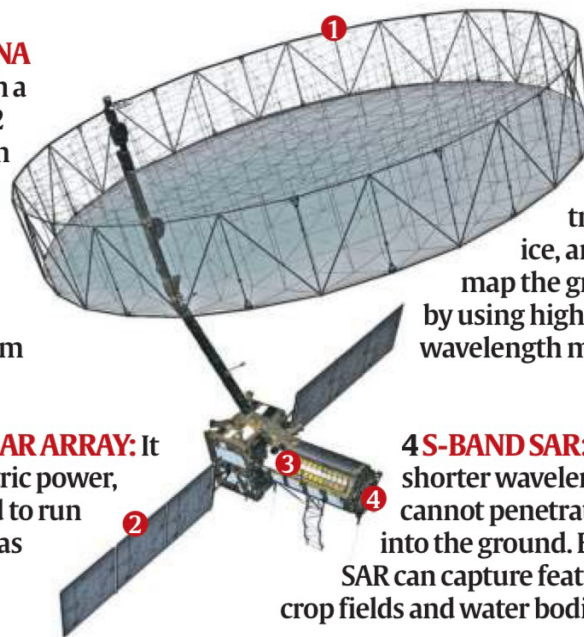


NISAR at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota on July 18. AP

1 RADAR ANTENNA REFLECTOR:

With a diameter of just 12 m, the antenna can produce images whose resolution is comparable to those taken by ground-based antenna with 20 km diameter.

2 DEPLOYED SOLAR ARRAY: It will generate electric power, which will be used to run instruments such as the two synthetic aperture radars.



3 L-BAND SAR:

It can penetrate through tree cover, ice, and sand to map the ground below by using higher wavelength microwaves.

4 S-BAND SAR: As it uses shorter wavelength, it cannot penetrate very deep into the ground. But S-band SAR can capture features such as crop fields and water bodies.

ISRO-NASA satellite placed in orbit, to map Earth in detail



ISRO's launch vehicle GSLV-F16 carrying NISAR, the first joint India-US satellite, lifts off from Sriharikota, Wednesday. PTI

- Ö In its most significant launch since the Moon-landing Chandrayaan-3 in 2023, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Wednesday placed NISAR satellite, a first-of-its-kind collaborative project between India and the US, into its intended orbit.
- Ö NISAR, which stands for **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar**, is the most powerful Earth observation satellite to be put in space, the result of over one decade of research and development by the space agencies of India and the US.
- Ö The NISAR satellite flew on a **GSLV-F16 rocket** launched from Sriharikota Wednesday evening.
 - The satellite was deposited in the **Sun Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSPO)**, about 747 km from the Earth, within 19 minutes of the launch.

- This was the first time that ISRO used its powerful GSLV rocket to drop a satellite in the SSPO.
- Usually, the PSLV rocket is used to access these orbits, but NISAR satellite was too heavy to be handled by PSLV.
- In fact, at 2,392 kgs, NISAR is the heaviest Earth observation satellite ever.

- ✍ Generally, to access the SSPO → PSLV is used
- ✍ For NISAR → GSLV → as it is the heaviest Earth observation satellite ever

Ö “**This is the first mission to SSPO using the GSLV.** Therefore, several analysis and studies were carried out to make it a grand success, including cryogenic upper stage corrections and a host of mission simulations. The vehicle performance today was as expected and predicted,”.

How **flash floods** are affecting India

Flash floods lead to the death of **more than 5,000 people annually in India**. *With soaring global temperatures, they are expected to increase in frequency and become more intense*. A study has put the spotlight on areas that are most vulnerable to flash floods, and how authorities can limit their impact

- = More than **100 people** dead in Himachal Pradesh in last of **July 2025**.
 - = At least **373** killed in **Kerala's Wayanad** in late **July 2024**.
 - = **Five soldiers** lost their lives in **Ladakh** in **June 2024**.
 - = **Dozens** dead in **Sikkim** in **October 2023**.
- △ Although these events took place in different parts of the country, they had one common trigger: flash floods.
- ↳ Every year, more than 5,000 people **die**, and
 - **significant damage** is sustained by infrastructure, agricultural land, and the environment due to these sudden floods, which are caused by extreme rainfall.
 - ↳ To make matters worse, with **rising global temperatures**, there has been an **increase in the frequency of flash floods**.
 - For instance, between 2020 and 2022, **the number of flash flood events increased from 132 to 184**, according to the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti's written reply in the Lok Sabha in 2023.
- △ Despite the increasing threat posed by flash floods, **there has been insufficient research to identify areas that are most vulnerable to this extreme weather event**.
- This has posed a challenge in implementing adaptation strategies such as early warning systems.

Flash Floods : Most Vulnerable

Most Frequent	• in the Himalayas, • Central India, and • the west coast of the country,
Extremely Prone	> sub-basins (parts of large river basins) > identified sub-basins in the • Brahmaputra, • Narmada, • Tapi, • Mahanadi, • Brahmani, and • west coast river basins
Highly Susceptible	> Parts of the • Godavari, • Ganga, • Mahi, and • Indus river basins
Most frequent River Basins	> There has been a notable increase in flash flood events since 1995. > Most have occurred in the 1) Brahmaputra river basin, followed by the 2) Ganga and 3) Krishna basins

Main Driving factors of flash floods

△ According to the study,

⌋ Only Extreme Rainfall

only 25% of the flash floods that occur in India are directly caused by extreme precipitation.

⌋ Extreme rainfall + Condition of the soil before precipitation

The rest of them are a result of a combination of extreme rainfall and the condition of the soil before precipitation.

- “If the ground is already wet
before a heavy rainfall event,
chances are the soil would be
saturated
or
near saturated,
which can lead to instant runoff.
This increases the risk of flash floods.”

△ **In only 23% cases** → does an **extreme rainfall** event → leads to immediate flash floods (**within six hours**).

↳ Usually, it is

**the prolonged (multi-day) low-intensity
and
high-intensity rainfall**

which results in these floods.

Other Driving factors of flash floods

△ At the most vulnerable regions, other factors also contribute to flash flood events.

↳ **West coast and Central India**

High flashiness of sub-basins

For instance, in the West coast and Central India, flash floods are driven by the high flashiness of **sub-basins (part of large river basins)**.

- This means that their water levels quickly reach the peak after a heavy rainfall event.
- Prevailing soil conditions play a crucial role in how rapidly water infiltrates a sub-basin.

➤ In the Himalayas,

geomorphological factors —

- such as steep slopes, and high relief (when a landscape has a significant difference between a high point and a low point) — contribute to flash floods.

Role of climate change

△ With rising global temperatures, extreme weather events such as flash floods are increasing in frequency and intensity across the world. That is because for every 1 degree Celsius rise in average temperature, the atmosphere can hold about 7% more moisture, leading to more intense precipitation, which exacerbates the risk of flash floods.

△ In India, between 1981 and 2020, the yearly frequency of extreme precipitation events doubled during the pre-monsoon season.

> Extreme rainfall during the

monsoon,	has increased by	56%
post-monsoon,		40%
winter seasons		12.5%

> Note that more than 75% of the total flash flood events that occurred between 1980 and 2018 took place during the monsoon season (June-September).

> There has been a notable increase in flash flood events since 1995, with most of them occurring in the

- 1) Brahmaputra River basin, followed by the
- 2) Ganga and
- 3) Krishna River basins,

Adaptation strategies

- △ The findings indicate that authorities need to **adopt region-specific adaptation strategies**, which are *based on factors such as topography and soil conditions*, and not just extreme rainfall events.
 - This can help in *developing better*
 - early warning systems,
 - targeted disaster preparedness, and
 - long-term adaptation plans
 - △ Authorities also need to **identify new potential flash flood hotspots** and **take measures** like
 - building climate-resilient infrastructure
 - to
 - limit the impact of the extreme weather event.
 - △ With rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns, there is a requirement to **enhance land-use and flood planning** as well.
-

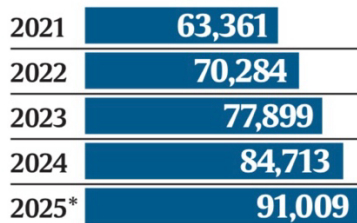
MEDICAL ATTENTION NECESSARY WITHIN 24 HOURS, SAY EXPERTS

City hospitals see rise in dog bite cases, Safdarjung logs 91K cases since Jan

CASES AT MAJOR HOSPITALS

Safdarjung Hospital

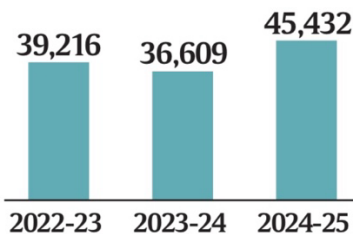
■ Dog bite cases



(*Till July 28)

RML Hospital

■ Dog bite cases*



*Period: April - March

KEY POINTS TO NOTE

- Dog bites are dangerous due to bacteria harboured in dog's mouth; can cause serious infections if skin is broken
- Complications from infection, such as sepsis, can be life-threatening if left untreated
- Rabies considered one of

the deadliest infections, known to have a nearly 100% fatality rate

- Rabies is a viral disease that can infect any mammal, not just dogs
- Even minor bites can drive bacteria deep into tissue, leading to infection that may develop rapidly

(Reference :- See Pg.No :- 70 – 73 July, 2025 issue)

Long-term air pollution exposure increases dementia risk: What new study has found

WHO data shows that **99% of the world's population breathes air containing high levels of pollutants**

Dementia

- Dementia is a term for several diseases that affect
 - ↳ *memory,*
 - ↳ *thinking,* and
 - ↳ *the ability to perform daily activities.*
- The illness gets worse over time, and **mainly affects older people.**
- According to WHO,
 - some **57 million people** had dementia worldwide in 2021,
 - with the number expected to increase to **at least 150 million cases by 2050.**
- *The rise in air pollution, **especially in developing countries**, might lead to an even sharper rise in cases.*
 - WHO data show that 99% of the global population breathes air that exceeds WHO guideline limits and contains high levels of pollutants, with *low- and middle-income countries suffering from the highest exposures.*
- Over the years, scientists have proposed **several mechanisms** to explain **how air pollution may cause dementia.**
- ✍ These **primarily involve**

inflammation in the brain and oxidative stress

(caused by
an imbalance between the production of

reactive oxygen species and
the body's ability to detoxify them,
leading to cellular damage).

✍ Both oxidative stress and inflammation *play a well-established role in the onset and progression of dementia,*

and

air pollution is thought to trigger these processes through direct entry of pollutants to the brain or via the same mechanisms underlying *lung and cardiovascular diseases.*

‡ As per the study, there are a positive and statistically significant association between three common air pollutants and dementia.

1) PM2.5

Predominantly produced by	vehicle emissions and thermal power plants
Relative risk of Dementia → increased by <u>17%</u>	

2) N02

Nitrogen dioxide is produced primarily due to	the burning of fossil fuels by vehicles,
	thermal power plants, and
	various industrial processes.
Relative risk of Dementia → increased by <u>3%</u>	

3) SOOT

Soot or black carbon PM 2.5 comes from sources such as	vehicle exhaust emissions and burning wood
Relative risk of Dementia → increased by 13%	

31.07.2025

The Kamchatka quake

With a magnitude of 8.8, the earthquake in Russia's far-eastern corner is one of the strongest on record. Its epicentre lies on the Circum-Pacific seismic belt, more popularly known as the 'Ring of Fire', which is the most seismically active belt on the planet, accounting for 80% of Earth's largest earthquakes

Massive 8.8 quake hits Russia,

tsunami waves reach Japan, Hawaii, California

△ One of the strongest earthquakes ever recorded struck off **Russia's** sparsely populated Far East early Wednesday, → → sending tsunami waves into Japan, Hawaii and the **US West Coast**.

- Several people were **injured**, but none gravely, and no major damage has been reported so far.

△ The **quake occurred on** what is known as a "**magathrust fault**",

where the **denser Pacific Plate**

is sliding underneath the

lighter North American Plate

△ **The Pacific Plate has been on the move, (moving west wards at 80 mm per year)** *making the Kamchatka Peninsula area off Russia's Far East coast where it struck especially vulnerable to such tremors* – and bigger aftershocks cannot be ruled out.

△ With its epicentre near the city of Petropavlovsk-Kamchatsky, it was the biggest earthquake, **it was the biggest earthquake since the devastating Tohoku event in 2011** (9.1), which caused a tsunami that sent Japan's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant into meltdown.

‡ “The **Kamchatka seismic zone** is one of the **most active subduction zones around the Pacific Ring of Fire**, and the Pacific Plate is moving west wards at 80 mm per year’.

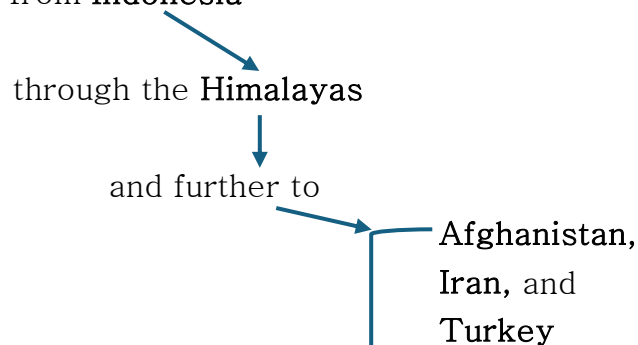
Most active regions

1) The Circum-Pacific seismic belt (Ring of Fire) :-

- is the most earthquake-prone zone out of the the three large earthquake zones of the Earth.
- accounts for around 80% of all big earthquakes

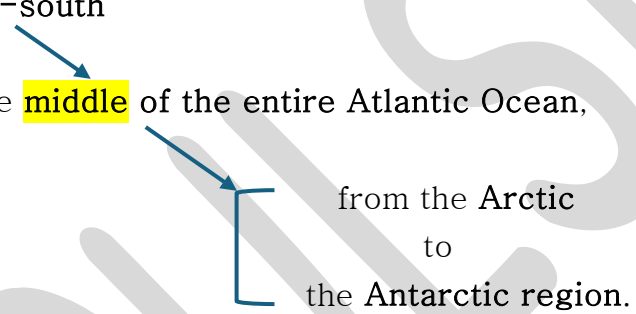
2) The Alpide belt :-

- is the second-most earthquake-prone zone (15-17%) in the worlds.
- runs mostly over the land...some of most populated area...so most destructive
- spanning from Indonesia



- ✍ In general, while the **strongest earthquakes** often take place under the **ocean**,
- ✍ the ones on **land**, even if they are **weaker**, are often **more deadly** due to their **proximity to population** centres.

3) Mid-Atlantic Ridge :-

- ✍ The **third most prominent** seismic belt
- ✍ runs north-south
through the **middle** of the entire Atlantic Ocean,


from the Arctic
to
the Antarctic region.
- ✍ This subduction zone is in the
 - ~ middle of the ocean,
 - ~ deep underwater, and
 - ~ far away from land.
- ✍ This zone produces **relatively moderate earthquakes**, and their **impact is minimal** *considering their distance from land.*

-
- ‡ **Only 5** earthquakes of magnitude 8.5 and above have occurred in the past 20 years.
 - ‡ Kamchatka Peninsula lies on the Circum-Pacific seismic belt → earthquake happening is not unusual
 - But the intensity is rare this time (8.8).
-

Process of subduction

Ö The Circum-Pacific seismic belt

is *home to multiple subduction processes*,

in which the **Pacific tectonic plate**
is clashing against
continental land.

Ö Subduction

is a geological process

in which **one tectonic plate** – put simply,
a large section of the Earth's crust –

presses against another.

➤ Usually, **the heavier or denser plate**, that is,
the one with more mass per unit of area,

tends to go below the lighter plate.

➤ But this process results in

deformities
and

creates a **huge stress** at the plate boundaries.

It is this stress that is released in the form of earthquakes.

Ö Why Himalayan region is the one of the most earthquake-prone zone in the world?

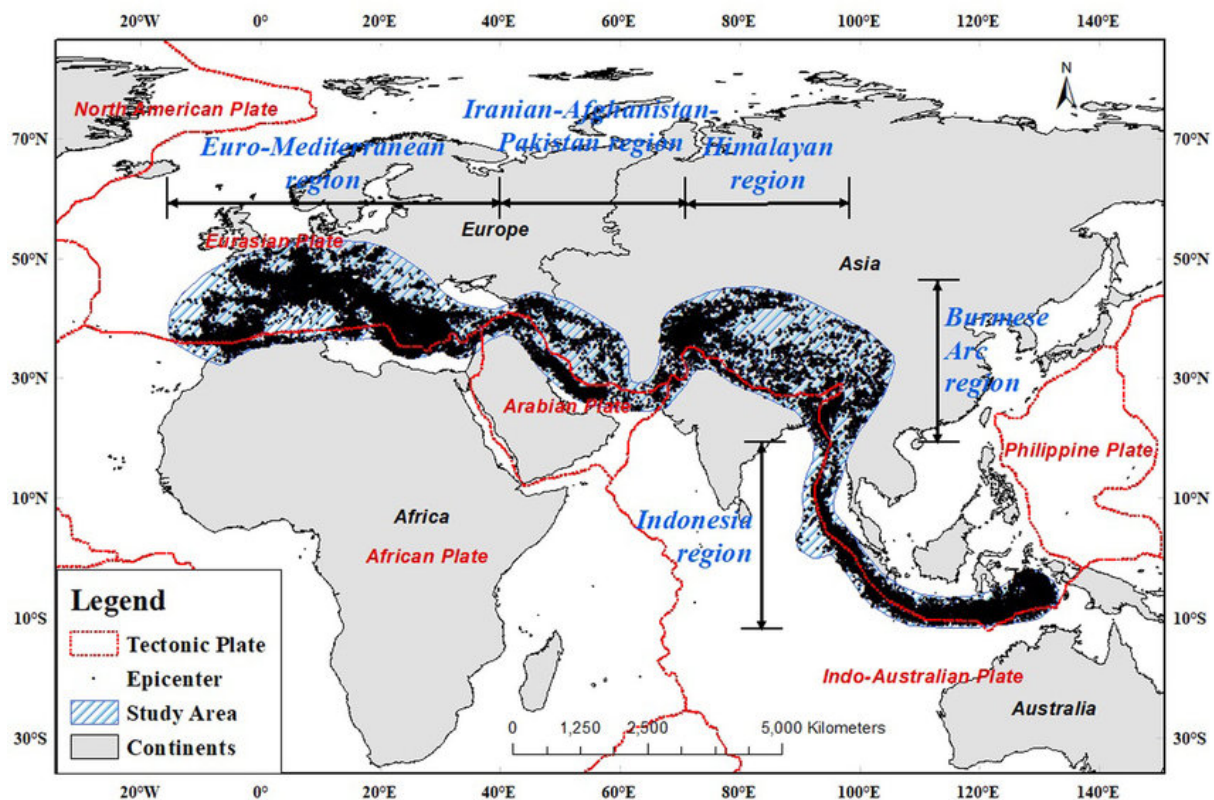
» The Himalayas were created due to **subduction**, as a result of the **Indian plate** pushing against the **Eurasian plate**.

TEN STRONGEST EARTHQUAKES IN THE LAST 20 YEARS

DATE	MAGNITUDE	LOCATION*
March 11, 2011	9.1	Tohoku region, Japan
July 30, 2025	8.8	Kamchatka Peninsula, Russia
February 27, 2010	8.8	Maule, Chile
April 11, 2012	8.6	Northern Sumatra, Indonesia
September 12, 2007	8.4	Bengkulu, Indonesia
September 17, 2015	8.3	Illapel, Chile
May 24, 2013	8.3	Okhotsk Sea
November 15, 2006	8.3	Kuril Islands
July 29, 2021	8.2	Alaska Peninsula
August 19, 2018	8.2	Levuka, Fiji

*The epicentre of the quakes was near these locations

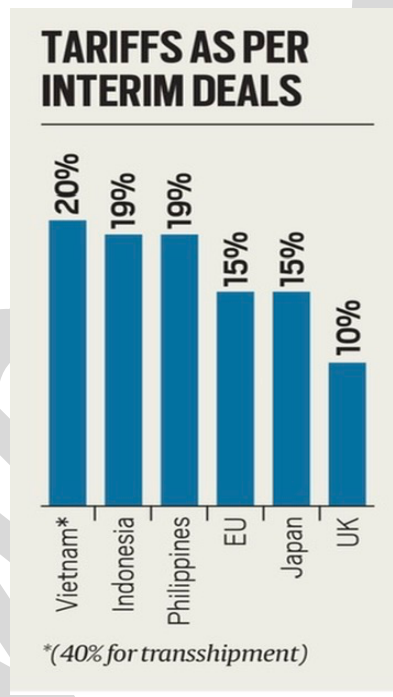
Source: USGS



The Alpidic belt

U.S. OFFICIALS TO COME TO INDIA IN AUGUST FOR NEXT ROUND OF TALKS ON TRADE PACT

Trump hits India with 25% tariff plus a Russia penalty



He has set August 1 as a deadline. But he is a very impulsive President. Therefore, he announced it two days before the August 1 deadline. Be that as it may.....**follow him in the next CA, August, 2025 issue.**

IMPULSE